

*Speech from the Throne*

I would like to see the Minister of the Environment tell the fishermen in my constituency that the economy is in good shape. The fishermen are being forced out of their industry by the minister's licensing program and boat retirement program. Fishermen are well aware that the government's whole program is designed to drive small fishermen out of the industry and to hasten the day when fishing will be entirely in the hands of large fishing companies. The young men who go into the fishing industry will do so as hired hands on ships owned and operated by the fishing companies in British Columbia.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Douglas:** I would like the government to tell the native Indian people that the economy is in good shape. I have 13 bands in my constituency. When I visit them, I am ashamed of the way these people are being treated. There are crowded housing conditions. If they are lucky, they are building two or three houses on some reserves. Do you know how much we give them to build a house? Eight thousand five hundred dollars. Is there anyone in this House who can build a house fit for a human being to live in for \$8,500?

There is a lack of water supply and sanitary facilities. In my constituency, almost every fall we have large numbers of children in the Duncan Hospital suffering from hepatitis and salmonella, because of contaminated water. We ought to be spending money creating jobs for the Indian people, helping to improve conditions on their reserves, helping to build houses, decent schools and providing a proper water supply. Don't tell them that the economy is in good shape. They know that the conditions on those reserves beggar description and are a disgrace to a so-called humanitarian and civilized society.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Douglas:** I would like to hear the government tell the business community that the economy is in good shape. I am not speaking of the 95 corporations that Mr. R. J. Rankin, president of the Liberal Party Red Carnation Fund, said supplied all their campaign funds; I am talking about the general business community, the entrepreneurs who keep the economy operating in this country.

I have never received so many letters from small businessmen as in the past six months. They complain about the fact that they cannot get working capital. The Small Businesses Loans Act is useless; the banks are not lending money under it. The Industrial Development Bank is hopeless as a source of funds for small businessmen. Large corporations, particularly those which have their parent company in the United States, have no trouble; they are able to get funds for expansion and development. But small businessmen today are finding it more difficult than ever before to get working capital and to start new enterprises. This is a large corporation-oriented government.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Mr. Douglas.]

**Mr. Douglas:** It could not care less about small business. That is why we in this group will support the amendment moved by the Social Credit Rally, which reads in part:

due to its failure to proceed with monetary reform in accordance with the needs of the Canadian society.

We do not agree with social credit but we certainly think there is a tremendous need for reform of the monetary system in this country. It must meet the needs of Canadians, needs which are not being met at the present time. The business community today is bewildered and uncertain because the government has given no clear lead as to what its policy on foreign ownership will be. Last July the cabinet agreed on a screening mechanism to deal with foreign ownership. A few months ago it dealt with the report of the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Gray). As the leader of our party pointed out yesterday and today, we have had repeated statements from the Prime Minister that the government's policy will be announced in due course and the report of the Minister of National Revenue on foreign ownership and control will be released. We do not have them. In his statement yesterday the Prime Minister indicated we will not get them soon, if at all. What is the effect? The effect is that the business community does not know where the government is going, for the very obvious reason that the government itself does not know where it is going.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Douglas:** The uncertainty of the business community is heightened by the fact that we have had conflicting statements with regard to the trade discussions that are going on with the United States. One minister told us that the government is standing on guard to protect the auto agreement. The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp), in the speech which he prepared for delivery in Winnipeg last Saturday, said:

• (1710)

It would indeed be ludicrous if there were to be a serious rift between Canada and the United States over the auto pact—

Does this mean that the auto pact is to be the sacrificial lamb? The minister went on to say:

Canada does understand and sympathize with the United States administration in its desire to correct certain fundamental imbalances in currency and trade relations. We have made our contribution to the correction of some of these imbalances and we are prepared to go further.

Surely this House and the country have a right to know how much further we are prepared to go. What concessions are we prepared to make? What deals are going on behind closed doors?

Secretary of the Treasury Connally and the United States government are not asking just for amendments to the auto pact. Are deals going on with respect to energy resources? Are we getting ready for another sell-out of natural gas? Are we getting ready to make a deal about water, as the Minister of the Environment was advocating a few years ago? There was an example recently of what I have in mind. I asked the Minister of