

The Address—Mr. Bigg

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bigg: Those fishermen are not looking for hand-outs. They want to see the Canadian merchant navy rebuilt. Although I am no seaman, I think I can say that if we adopted a rational policy for putting Canada's merchant navy back into operation many of those fishermen would be only too pleased to carry the Red Ensign across the oceans of the world in the proud manner in which Canada's merchant navy carried it in the past. That would not only solve the problem of the unemployed and discouraged fishermen in the Maritimes but it would help to build up a whole new, modern industry in eastern Canada.

I move farther westward in my remarks. In Ungava, and probably in Baffinland, there are still virtually unlimited resources of medium grade iron ore. We should develop these and make sure that we have dynamic new plans, particularly in central Canada, to use Canadian iron ore resources. With proper utilization of power grids and atomic energy there should be no unemployment in central Canada. We would then have dynamic policies that would put Canadians back to work, not necessarily with a 60-hour week but with a 40-hour week. Labour should get together with management, instead of always struggling with it, and say eloquently, "We the labouring people of Canada, who are the most willing workers in the world, wish to get together with our industry, which is the most willing industry in the world, and together for the good not only of the people of Canada but of all the world we shall produce cheap, good and efficient steelware." If that can be done in Japan, it can be done here.

I now move on to speak of the Prairies. Surely, Mr. Speaker, we can come up with better solutions than programs under which farmers are paid for not growing grain. The government called this the Lift program. The lift to what? Did it lift the Canadian economy? Fortunately, mother nature took a hand and showed us how stupid we were, even in one year, when we told farmers not to grow food that is needed by the hungry peoples of the world.

The answer we gave in 1957 and 1958 is still valid. We must not concentrate most of our energies on establishing marketing boards, which I think are necessary if we are to have orderly, shared marketing. Marketing boards for the small domestic market will not be good enough if we are to keep prosperous the Prairies and the agricultural industry of Canada, which is only now coming into its own. Most of today's Canadian farmers are technicians. The farmer has more than doubled his output.

I take joint responsibility with the administration when I say we must do more than merely establish a program of production controls to ensure the sharing of a very small domestic market. I say that because in heeding the dynamic vision which this party put forward, Canada must look outside her shores and see what the world needs in the way of food. Canada's vision must become part of the world's vision, if we are to feed the hungry peoples of the world. What has happened to the vision of a world food bank?

[Mr. Bigg.]

The present administration has decided to recognize Red China. I hope that the question of trade was mainly in its mind. If trade was the reason for recognizing Red China, I go along with it. The evolution of trade between Canada and Red China is a good reason for Red China's seeking a seat in the United Nations. Can we be assured that seating Red China in the United Nations would be to move toward peace and world prosperity? I venture to say it would not, because of the threat to world peace posed by Red China and Russia. If Canada, the United States, Red China and Russia each donated one-quarter of their defence budget to the food bank, that would certainly solve well into the twenty-first century western Canada's problems with regard to trade in world markets.

• (9:00 p.m.)

There is not enough arable land in the world for all people to enjoy the standard of living to which we are accustomed. It is not good enough to follow what is referred to in the Speech from the Throne. We pat ourselves on the back and say, "Things have never been better in Canada." This is the first time I have been aware that one of the peculiarities of the beaver is to put his head into the sand like an ostrich. The Canadian beaver is intelligent, hardworking, industrious, has good humour, the ability to build dams and to conserve. By hard work he stores enough food during the summer to keep him alive during the winter. This is what Canadians are used to. These are our virtues, and it is time we returned to them. In order to bring about these ideals we need a white paper on taxation which would improve the atmosphere so that people would return to work willingly and devote their efforts to making Canada a better, freer and safer country in which to live.

Our financial wizards should take a close look at bank rates. A few years ago the majority of the members of this House were talked into raising the ceiling on bank rates. We were assured that this step would not cost the man on the street any more money; indeed, we were told it would cost him a good deal less. It was to be easier for a man to obtain the money with which to buy a house. All the virtues were brought forward. It was suggested that young men would be able to afford a home for their families. What has happened? We have never before experienced the degree of inflation we have had since the so-called improvement to the Bank Act. We need co-operation from the Canadian financiers.

I think there is something to be said in favour of the criticism of the banks by my friends to my left. It might be a good idea for some of us to study the untoward profits of banks. Many stocks in Canada are decreasing in value. In the last five or six years it has been better to invest in the chartered banks of Canada. Why? It is the safest money in the world. Therefore, the banks should be satisfied with a smaller margin of profit on their investment. Many of us have had to gamble our personal resources to compete with those who manufacture boots in Czechoslovakia or textiles and pottery in Japan. Canadians are being asked to gamble while those in charge of the finances of this country sit behind their