

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

The C.B.C. is not a plaything. It will spend \$150 million of the Canadian taxpayers' money this year. There are reports that the Secretary of State (Miss LaMarsh) offered to take the job of running this organization but apparently there were no takers. Operating costs for this year have increased by \$29 million; yet my information is that the C.B.C. is at least 16 to 20 months behind in its routine bookkeeping and accounts. Money is being wasted on every hand. The organization sent a crew to Uruguay to cover the O.A.S. conference at a cost of \$20,000. It set up a West Indies broadcasting service and sent a man from Toronto at \$29,000 a year to direct it. This kind of spending cannot continue.

The C.B.C. was set up by Right Hon. R. B. Bennett and his government as an institution to make available Canadian culture for Canadians. It has become an institution engaged in a race with private enterprise to obtain advertising. Chaos now reigns in the C.B.C. What is the government going to do about it?

The director of news and public affairs for the C.B.C. has only very recently been confirmed in his position. The news department is in a state of disintegration and one has only to listen to the news to realize how the quality of news items has deteriorated from even a year ago. Yet the news department spends \$4 million a year.

• (4:10 p.m.)

Surely Canadians have a right to expect that the C.B.C. shall preserve a pride in their nation, shall let them know something of our various cultures. I am told that the national television news on the opening day of Expo was half an hour late in its broadcast. Whether this was because of disagreement between Toronto and Montreal, I do not know. But the C.B.C. is leaderless and rudderless today. I asked the question yesterday, and it has not yet been answered, whether an agreement had been entered into with any foreign government, in particular with the U.S.S.R., for the purpose of ascertaining what that agreement was and what the circumstances were. The C.B.C. in 1967, our centennial year, should be made to realize that its purpose is to play its part for Canada and build in this nation a feeling of Canadianism. Canadian culture is dealt with in C.B.C. broadcasting in a very minimal way.

Next I come to the question of educational television. The government decided to bring that in by the back door through an estimate.

We stopped that. I feel that it should be under the C.B.C. and there should not be another member of this vast, increasing family of bureaucracy. Indeed, sir, in the last three years the government has become the biggest business in Canada.

Next I deal with a matter about which we will not be told anything today by the Prime Minister—tax reduction. I hope that action will be taken to reduce taxation and cut out wasteful expenditures. I can give particulars of these wasteful expenditures at any time. The implementation of the Glassco report is long overdue. These are matters we should be facing this year. We should be carrying out a re-examination of Canada's fiscal policies and arrangements, keeping in mind the principle that in the interests of confederation the collecting authority should wherever possible be the authority which spends.

There should be the immediate establishment of a national scientific institute to enable Canada to restore prestige in the scientific field, to mobilize scientific effort in industry, universities and government and to achieve a better balance in co-ordinated scientific advancement. Today there is duplication between government and industrial activities. In this technological age we need to move forward in that direction, not by replacing and supplanting the efforts of the National Research Council but by setting up an institute as a co-ordinating and assessing body not engaged in actual experimentation.

In agriculture what is the situation? Talk to the farmers. Despite the eloquence of the hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska (Mr. Côté), the farmers of this country are up in arms. There must be legislation at this session to ensure a fair deal for agriculture.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: What about relations between labour and industry? The Minister of Labour (Mr. Nicholson) is repeatedly saying that everything is out of date and something should be done. There was nothing in the speech from the throne to meet this problem, one that is exercising the leadership both in the United States and the United Kingdom and one that cannot be indefinitely postponed. Pollution has been mentioned. Over and over again various hon. members have raised the need of a national crusade against pollution in co-operation with the provinces. True enough there is some reference to this matter in the speech from the throne, but a policy must be formulated that will be effective.