

The Budget—Mr. Roche

an excellent report on necessary revisions to meet modern demands. Why do we not implement it? The joint committee struck at the heart of the Canadian problem when it said:

A new Canadian constitution should be based on functional considerations, which would lead to a greater decentralization of government powers in all areas touching culture and social policy and to a greater centralization in powers which have important economic effects at the national level.

Here is the situation in brief. The federal government has the main access to the growth fields of taxation, such as personal and corporation income taxes. The provinces and the municipalities are boxed in by such slower growth taxes as retail sales taxes and property taxes. At the same time, the provinces and the municipalities are the levels of government which are faced with the most rapidly expanding demand for services. This situation has been intensified by the vast growth in welfare costs borne by big urban municipalities as a direct result of unemployment.

The lack of government co-ordination in urban planning is shocking. We now have an intergovernmental jungle in Canada with all three levels of government clamouring for more money. Their competition, and the lack of consultation, weakens government programs; meanwhile, the taxpayer is financing an expanding bureaucracy. This produces a spirit of confrontation throughout the country. The role of the federal government should be one of co-ordination and support, not domination. Decentralization means shifting as much power as is compatible with the national interest to provincial levels of government and from the provinces to the municipalities. That is the way to give people more control over their own lives and a greater say in their own destinies. Ottawa should lead, not dictate.

The constitutional committee has told us: "More communications and fuller co-operation among all levels of government are imperative needs . . ." That is what we are putting into practice in Edmonton-Strathcona. We have an informal intergovernmental team consisting of Mayor Dent, Aldermen Menzies, Purves, McLean and Olsen and MLA's Getty, Crawford, Schmid and Koziak and myself. Essentially, the same voters elected all of us to the three levels of government, and we are trying to find ways to co-ordinate our service. Last Friday we held our second meeting to plan co-operative action on a senior citizens high rise, co-ordinated social services and the introduction of rapid transit without damaging communities. We hope to give a report on intergovernmental co-operation in this one federal constituency at the next national tri-level meeting.

The immediate problems of unemployment, inflation and taxation are undoubtedly pressing us, but we must not be diverted from global problems. Parliament must focus national attention on the opportunities and responsibilities Canada faces in contributing to world order. The astronauts have shown us that the whole of humanity is compressed into a global village. The central question today is whether our world will become a community or a wasteland. There is no alternative to the United Nations as the major focus for building a world order guaranteeing peace, justice and progress for all peoples. The only wars we can now tolerate are the wars on poverty, injus-

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tice, discrimination, ignorance, disease and the befoulement of the planet. Yet the United Nations is struggling for its existence and the gulf between the "haves" and "have-nots" is growing in an unbalanced world economy. Sixteen per cent of the world's population, largely North American, has 75 per cent of the wealth; the number of illiterate people in the world is actually growing, liberation struggles are common.

World aid programs total \$7 billion annually, but the value of that aid is diminished by inflation and the world's population is growing by 78 million people per year. By the year 2000 the world will be inhabited by eight billion people, six billion in underdeveloped countries and two billion in the developed zone. The last quarter of this century will be dominated by people under 25, largely alienated and living in ghetto continents. We have the ability in Canada to make a vital contribution to the survival of man in the new age. We can decide whether to build a system of economic humanism on this planet or to blindly allow technology to widen the gaps between men. Canadian leadership can stimulate a new era of world co-operation.

Our goal should be to become an international nation, pioneering research and training through an expanded Canadian International Development Agency. Canada could stimulate an alliance of middle states, north and south, east and west, to move policies for world development and conciliation to the prime place that human survival demands. Our goal should be to move beyond the concept of foreign aid, necessary as that is; world development demands organized trading systems under which the poorer countries may enjoy a fairer share of export earnings. Canada has made a modest beginning in tariff cuts, but we must do more to open our markets so that developing countries can sell their primary products to us. Canadian industries affected by increasing imports would be given adjustment assistance.

A strong Canadian economy is a prerequisite to Canada playing a larger international role. But if a strong domestic economy is our only goal, we will be failing to recognize that international social justice is the only route to world peace. Thus, I want to see a higher Canadian government priority given to involvement in United Nations programs for food growth and distribution, literacy development and health services.

Finally, the Science Council of Canada has recently given us a very controversial report questioning the growth syndrome as the criterion of national success. The council wants us to use the same energy and genius that built this country "to create new social organizations, new transportation mechanisms, new waste disposal systems and the whole panoply of new services which our emerging life style will demand". In other words, we must put the national spotlight onto improving the quality of life rather than just increasing the abundance of goods. This ties in with the international examination of our life support systems now going on through the Club of Rome.

Population, industrialization, food production, depletion of non-renewable resources and pollution can no longer be viewed as separate things; they are interconnected in many ways. The resources of this planet are limited and the demands made on them increasing. Thus, the protec-