

*The Address—Mr. Peters*

now a bill on the order paper dealing with this subject. The problem they are faced with and which I think deserves some (study) is that there should be consideration given to the number of students that parents have attending universities. At the present time income is the main factor, and income will go only so far when you have three or four children attending university. I hope this question will be considered in the proposed amendments to the act.

In closing my remarks I wish to extend an invitation to all members of the House of Commons—I say this on behalf of all members from the province of Manitoba—to visit our province in the year 1970, our centennial year. This will be one of the biggest celebrations in the history of the province of Manitoba. Extensive plans are being made to host people from across Canada. Many, many events will be taking place and I will make it my duty, as I am sure all other members from the province will make it their duty, to see that you receive a complete calendar of events.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** We will form a special committee.

**Mr. Cobbe:** As the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) stated, we will form a special committee. I might say that the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) spends a considerable amount of time in the province of Manitoba. I am sure for the sole purpose of enjoying our centennial year in 1970 and will, and he will be promoting this program. On behalf of all members from Manitoba, please make a special effort to visit us in that province during our centennial year.

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, I was interested in a remark made by one of my colleagues indicating that he had listened to and participated in 39 Speeches from the Throne. While I have not been involved to that extent, I have been involved in enough Throne Speeches to notice a great change taking place in our deliberations under the guise of a Throne Speech. When I first came to this House new members were expected to give a travelogue of their riding. I think this was a worth-while purpose because it gave new members the opportunity of making their maiden speech. It was to the advantage of the member and to those who listened to him.

For example, when speaking of my riding I pointed out that we had a number of agricul-  
[Mr. Cobbe.]

tural problems and I listed them. I made a remark which was factually correct but not really representative; I stated that in my area we produce an amount of cheese equal to the total Canadian export of cheese. Some people assumed that meant we produced all the cheese that was exported. This was not true, because we did not export any; however, we did produce that amount. This was a surprising fact to many members who had been here for years and did not know there was a large agricultural industry in Timiskaming; in fact, one of the best agricultural industries in Ontario.

In the last few days, Mr. Speaker, we have been listening to a different type of speech. The Throne Speech is changing. The Throne Speech probably started to change when the speech was read in the other place. It is a formality. It started with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), followed by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). Both these hon. gentlemen referred not only to what was contained in the Speech but also to their own aspirations. The Prime Minister, reading his speech, set a tone which has been followed by many of his hon. friends. This raises a question in my mind. I recall on past occasions being accused of wasting a lot of time during a number of other parliaments in order to accomplish a certain social end which was finally accomplished. People used to call attention to the number of dollars which were lost, as it were, during that filibuster. I was not much impressed, because it seemed to me that if we were not talking, somebody else would be doing so for a purpose which was less worthy. I am sure many hon. members feel the same way about the debate on the Address. However, we should look at this debate in terms of the possibility of modernization.

● (5:30 p.m.)

We have already made changes in the rules and in other parliamentary activities. I am impressed by the number of speakers who have mentioned the committees' changes we have made. They have called attention to the weakness, in fact to the failure, of the committees' system. But they would all agree we have at least examined the structure and been willing to do something about it.

Perhaps we should also take a look at the present procedure. Perhaps we would make it worse, but on the other hand we might make it better. At present it seems to be a hodge-podge. I should be delighted, Mr. Speaker, if you could have the opportunity to give us