

*The Address—Mr. Fortin*

what the Speech from the Throne calls upon us to do, and I quote:

—to share the excitement, to face the challenge, to pursue the distant ideal of a just society.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian people shy away neither from excitement nor challenge and their most fervent desire is to see the advent of this just society which every citizen legitimately craves. But our population is on the brink of despair and I am altogether convinced that the social stability referred to in the Speech from the Throne and considered as already achieved is in fact only wishful thinking. Indeed not only do several thousands Quebecers and other Canadians unfortunately doubt the merit of the federal system and protest against it during electoral campaigns, but thousands of English-speaking citizens are doubtful about the usefulness of Canada as a separate entity, bearing in mind regional disparities, what they gain from it and what they pay for it. And this national disintegration, which no one can deny, will go on as long as our governments ignore the legitimate aspirations of our fellow-citizens, both in the social and the economic fields.

Protests, as a phenomenon, are not about to disappear because they are the result of a deep feeling of frustration. May I list some of the causes: increasing unemployment, lack of decent housing, closing-down of some plants, excessively high interest rates, social injustices of which thousands of citizens are victims, and many others of this type.

As long as our governments do not ensure, through concrete economic measures, the sound and normal development of each citizen, without at the same time adversely affecting economic liberty and security, a stable social climate, such as that in the existence of which the Throne Speech would have us believe, will not

Discontent is so widespread that people cannot endorse the idealized and unrealistic content of the Speech from the Throne.

This government is noticing it itself. In fact, we can read in the same speech and I quote:

—Canada faces a new age; an age which will be subject to forces not all of which are yet comprehended or understood, forces which will proceed from external as well as internal origins.

Mr. Speaker, the wide spread phenomenon of protest in which an ever increasing number of citizens from all walks of life take part is a real fact and a power which governments, in particular the federal government, must acknowledge and compromise with. If the federal government keeps hiding in its ivory tower, refusing to recognize the daily reality with the ugly and frustrating aspect it takes for the greatness of the liberal party, this phenomenon will keep growing, and it is not sure whether the established order will last. Current events show where frustrating feelings may lead.

Besides, the government is aware of the situation while not doing anything to cope with it. I quote the Speech from the Throne:

It is a new age not so much because of changed circumstances, but new because of changed values and attitudes.

[Mr. Fortin.]

Because of the clash between these new values and the old, because of the quest by the young and the disillusioned for some resolution of attitudes, we live in a period of tenseness and unease.

It goes on as follows:

It is an age frequented by violence as desperate men seek ill-defined goals.

In short, it is a period of frustration. But it is not good enough to recognize the evil. There must be a reaction, and not necessarily by resorting to force.

The people are not asking for hand-outs, but merely for their most legitimate rights, which are security of income, freedom of the individual within security and order, the opportunity for the individual to fulfill himself socially, economically and culturally, and finally the possibility for each citizen to get his fair share of the national production.

A study of the list of bills to be introduced shows, once more and once too often, that the present government is increasingly remote from reality, entrenched in its complacency and in an attitude of self-sufficiency which is highly offensive to the Canadian people, mainly the young ones who expect more than words, more than academic statements, more than stuffy sentences which are so numerous in the Speech from the Throne.

This government was elected two years ago and we are still waiting for the first positive step that would prove that the government actually wants to achieve the just society. I do not believe at all in this just society mentioned in all the speeches of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). I do not believe in this just society as advocated by the Prime Minister because everywhere in Canada there is misery in the midst of plenty. In fact, everywhere in Canada, poverty, unemployment, slums, starvation wages, employees crushed by their bosses, uncertainty about income, political patronage, policies that discourage initiative and ambition such, as for instance, the dairy or grain policies, are a continuing scandal in a country which still is bursting with resources and offers plenty of opportunities.

No, Mr. Speaker, we do not believe in this just society and we look forward to the day when the government will listen to our Social Credit proposals. Our task is to build a country, not to create frustration for our people.

I do not believe in Prime Minister Trudeau's just society because I can see all over Canada young people dejected at not finding suitable jobs that could enlist their knowledge and their energy in the service of their country. I do not believe in this just society because the vast majority of our students have been unable to find jobs this last summer, and after they complete their education, nothing is changed; because all over the country, the people of Canada have had enough of this mock fight against inflation which the government carries on the back of the small taxpayer, of the labourer, in short, on the back of all those who cannot afford to withstand the effects of such restrictive and limiting policy.