

The Address—Mr. Thompson

balance, on Canadian consumers with money purchasing that which they are able to produce. Second, it depends upon a general decrease in the cost of living, which will mean cessation of the present inflationary trends. This means lower taxation as well.

Amendments to the Export Credits Insurance Act will be welcome, but it is necessary that we follow up on our settlement problem as well.

It might be well to note here that the financial proposals for the commonwealth, made by the United Kingdom's Chancellor Maudling recently, are worthy of consideration. In the same way that we were in difficulty in the thirties internally with the gold standard so we are in trouble externally with the gold standard today.

The freest possible exchange of goods and services is an essential ingredient of a buoyant economy. Likewise the old pattern of high tariffs and economic isolation must be replaced with new and freer trade patterns. The commonwealth weakens about us and its influence diminishes simply because we do not have the courage or vision to launch out into the obvious. Prime Minister Diefenbaker missed a great opportunity for leadership at the recent London conference simply because he could not free himself from the old rationalizing indecision which has been characteristic of his administration. Today's freer trade requirements are not limited to the commonwealth; they must also apply to the United States, to the American hemisphere and to other friendly nations. But they must begin some place.

We must understand not only the truth of this, but the urgency of it. What better place could we find to begin such a policy than our next door neighbour? Talk of a world conference to this end sounds all too hollow in light of the increased tariff walls we build, even though we give them such high sounding names as "surcharges".

I must commend the Prime Minister for his first mention, as given in the throne speech, of the political implications of the European economic community as it relates to the treaty of Rome. It is well that the leader of the official opposition should remember that the strength of our nation and our way of life does not merely depend upon economic laws. There are laws, yes; immutable laws which extend far higher than this. One of the great heritages that we have in the commonwealth of nations is the parliamentary system of government which puts the democratic authority and responsibility back to the people rather than being vested in the constitution.

May I say here that the treaty of Rome, while good in its economic aspects, and while

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its benefits have been and will continue to be of much benefit to the continent of Europe itself, is outweighed by the political implications it contains. I would suggest that every hon. member of this house study this document before making any final decision as to whether or not he thinks Britain should be joining this political, economic setup at this time.

If only we could understand that Britain's need is not merely preferential treatment for commonwealth countries, not merely industrial competition from Europe, but simply that of raw materials and markets which can be far better obtained within the commonwealth itself, then we would immediately demand a commonwealth trade conference with full preparation and study. Thus we come to many of the problems that we have been hearing about today and yesterday.

At this particular time I think we should remind ourselves very carefully, each one of us as members of this house, that we have a responsibility to Canada, to our electors, to each other and to parliament. Therefore we maintain that we must face up to the legislative needs of Canada at this time. Canada desperately needs legislation; she desperately needs to have the confidence of her people restored in the processes of democracy and in those who have the authority for government.

Therefore at this time—I will at a later time finish the remarks I have to make—I would move, seconded by the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette), that the amendment which was proposed last evening by the leader of the official opposition be amended by inserting after the word "advisers" and before the word "do" the following:

—having failed to pursue economic and financial policies based on Social Credit principles—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

An hon. Member: Printing money.

Mr. Thompson: Nobody said anything about printing money. I noticed that some of the proposals of the leader of the official opposition had been copied right out of our last election platform. Hon. members should stop laughing, before they go too far. To continue:

—having failed to pursue economic and financial policies based on Social Credit principles, designed to establish a balanced economy and relieve the burden of public debt and public debt charges, thus assuring Canadians a standard of life compatible with this nation's capacity to produce—

The amendment as amended would then read:

We respectfully affirm to Your Excellency that Your Excellency's advisers, having failed to pursue economic and financial policies based on Social Credit principles, designed to establish a balanced economy and relieve the burden of public debt