

*Speech from the Throne*

**Mr. Carter:** About the only thing specific in the Throne Speech was the promise of three new national parks in the north, but apparently they will be so far away that it is unlikely they will cause any traffic congestion or be trampled down by the public.

I do not expect to see the Competition Act before us in the present session. The Speech from the Throne indicates that the government is going to water it down, if that bill is to be introduced at all. Obviously, the government is looking for ways to stall it. I think they have finally realized that they have bitten off more than they can chew.

I am not sure, either, whether the government this year will bring in its policy on foreign ownership. From the glossy reference to it in the Throne Speech it would appear that whatever policy is eventually evolved, it will be rather modest and probably not very effective. May I point out to you, Sir, and to hon. members that we of the Atlantic region are just as concerned about this so-called foreign investment policy as are the people in the industrial heartland of this country. We in Atlantic Canada require great amounts of investment if we are to shake off our have-not status. We want to make sure that this policy will reflect the regional need for investment and that investment, from whatever source it may come, will find Atlantic Canada attractive.

The people of Atlantic Canada, and especially of Newfoundland, do not enjoy their have-not status, this second-class Canadianism. To me it suggests that the entire concept of confederation is not working and has fallen far short of its original objective, because seven of the ten provinces are declared have-not provinces. Certainly, there are reasons for this. Yet in our particular case, Mr. Speaker, there is no legitimate reason for the snail's pace at which Newfoundland has been moving in reversing this have-not status. On second thought, when one realizes that there has been a Liberal government in Newfoundland for the past 22 years, perhaps there is good reason for it.

**Mr. Whicher:** What did you have before you had a Liberal government?

**Mr. Alexander:** I still remember the hon. member's speech.

**Mr. Carter:** Newfoundland does not intend forever being an economically have-not province. We have resources and we have the people; also, we have determination. Yet what we require, the present government has not given us. The people of Atlantic Canada, and especially of Newfoundland, foresee the day when they will be providing equalization payments to their sister provinces. But that day can come only when the central government in Ottawa has recognized the need for a new deal for Newfoundland in confederation. We do not want hand-outs, Mr. Speaker. We do not want inflation when we do not contribute to it. We do not want unemployment imposed on us for the inflationary sins of the more wealthy regions of Canada. All we want, Sir, is proper recognition in Ottawa of the unique situation of our province, a situation which can in a few years, transform our province into one of the most productive areas in the Dominion. Sir, the people of Atlantic Canada, those of the

have-not provinces and especially of Newfoundland, must be given a chance.

How can the residents of the riding of St. John's West read the Speech from the Throne and conjure up any great aspirations? How do you think the people of the Placentia area feel when they read a 3,500-word speech and find that the only thought that this government has given to unemployment reads:

• (1730)

Unemployment continues to be a matter of immense concern to the government.

What a profound statement for a government that has been in office for almost four years! That sentence follows a description in the most flowery of terms of an economy in Canada about which this government can find no wrong. It is a charade, Mr. Speaker, a shameless one put forward by a dishonourable government. I am sure the people in the Placentia, Jersey, Freshwater and Dunville areas of my riding, where more than 60 per cent of the work force is unemployed, will recognize it as just being just that.

What does the government say it is going to do about this tragic unemployment? It does not say anything. It has not done anything since it was elected in 1968. It will not do anything except create more unemployment. The people in parts of St. John's West, where unemployment is higher than even the province's 18 per cent, will remember the promise made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in his New Year's interview on CTV when he said that if he had it to do again, he would do it the same way. I contend, and I am sure the majority of Canadians agree with me, that Canada cannot afford to have in the highest office of this land a man who will not hesitate to take such vicious and cruel steps to deliberately create unemployment. We certainly cannot afford that luxury in my province.

This government's only answer to unemployment seems to be makeshift, band-aid policies and the provision of more welfare. The average Canadian living in eastern Canada, certainly the average Newfoundlander, does not want welfare. He wants a chance to work, to earn a living for himself and his family with pride and dignity, not welfare and humiliation. There is a brief sentence in the Speech from the Throne where the government says it wants to deal more compassionately with the Canadian people. I understand that is the accusation about which the Prime Minister is most sensitive. He should be. If there is one thing in which this government has excelled, it is in not having compassion. There is another reference, an almost underlying theme, of love and understanding among Canadians. As far as the people in my area are concerned, that applies only to the Prime Minister: he loves himself and only he understands himself.

There is an old saying that when "poverty comes in the door, love goes out the window." How can a child living in St. Mary's Bay understand or get any real appreciation of this government's commitment to a better way of life, the resolution of differences by reason, the practice of tolerance and the acceptance of love and understanding? How can he appreciate that when he can only look forward to the status of a second-class citizen and realizes that his only hope for survival will be to leave the land of his birth,