

*The Address—Mr. T. C. Douglas*

• (3:00 p.m.)

desire society to descend this spiral to destruction?

We in this House, as representatives of political parties, bear a heavy responsibility in these respects. We must not relinquish the burden which rests on our parties to offer to all Canadians acceptable vehicles for their political activities. If we do not provide proof of the vitality of the democratic process we shall have failed our responsibilities and proved to the critics that the system is indeed at fault.

I wish to add on behalf of the Liberal party, Mr. Speaker, that we accept that challenge; that we intend, in the future as in the past, to be the voice of change; that we shall not foresake our role as advocate of the great main-stream of Canadians; that we intend to listen, to understand, to respond, and to lead.

This Canada of ours is a bold experiment, an experiment that must continue on orderly lines as it has in the past. But order is not stagnation. Orderly change need not lead to any less imaginative or desirable results than would the plans of those who press for precipitate reform.

Bold plans are no less bold because they are thoughtfully conceived. Broad change is no less broad because it is carefully designed.

Orderly change will permit us to retain our sense of direction, our unity, and our diversity. Our unity must be of commitment to a better Canada, a Canada in which all the diversities which give us strength flourish for our betterment, a Canada in which the dignity and worth of every individual are perfected, where each person is given an equality of opportunity which is real, unfettered by disease or ignorance or poverty, a Canada which exists as a free country in a world where freedom and peace are the norm, and not an elusive target.

I have no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that every member of this house shares these goals. Our differences are only in the means of attaining them, in assessment of priority, in judgment of the rate of achievement. This institution of parliament is designed to resolve those differences. I look forward, Mr. Speaker, as I am sure do the leaders of all the Opposition parties, and all hon. members, to a productive and effective session, one which will bring deserved repute to this House and will contribute to our common goal of a better Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to extend my congratulations to the hon. member for Sarnia (Mr. Cullen) and the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Marceau) on their very commendable speeches in moving and seconding the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. Theirs was not an easy task, because it is somewhat difficult to make bricks without straw. One of my colleagues has described the Speech from the Throne by saying it ought to be called the spare ribs speech—a lot of bones and not much meat.

**Mr. Mackasey:** Like a lot of the ham we are having right now.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Now we are getting from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) the boloney he usually slices so thickly.

**Mr. Baldwin:** This is a meatless Friday.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** The Speech from the Throne, like the Prime Minister's speech this afternoon, is filled with pious hopes and good intentions. No one can quarrel with the sentiments of high public morality which have just been outlined by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). However, I think the Canadian people will be disappointed in the Speech from the Throne and in the speech to which we have just listened, because for over a year they have been expecting that the government would outline its blueprint for the just society, and most people believe that the just society means more than legal justice.

Of course we want legislation which will control wire-tapping, will deal with detention before bail and see that every person has fair and equal treatment before the law. Those are things that members of this party have been advocating for years. It is regrettable that a Liberal government which has been in office for over six years is only now getting around to dealing with those problems. A just society involves more than legal justice. Surely a just society also means social justice and economic justice. However, the Speech from the Throne and the Prime Minister's speech this afternoon were extremely vague and evasive about what the government intends to do in order to provide greater social equality and greater economic opportunity for the people of this country.

In the whole Speech from the Throne there is not a word about unemployment. The