

The Address—Mr. Crouse

I would suggest to the government that they spend some of this money in an effort to try to develop a corridor road through Maine. Has nothing been done in this regard? Is there no one on that side of the house who can tell us what progress is being made with this international development? Surely they could ask somebody in the United States to give us a report on the possibilities of working out a joint highway development in Maine. My understanding is that a bill has been introduced in the Maine legislature calling for construction and improvements on several portions of state route No. 6, a section of the long proposed corridor road. In my view, this is a step in the right direction; but I ask the government whether any representations have been made to the governor of the state of Maine by the federal government indicating our interest in developing this corridor road.

Think of the tremendous savings in transportation costs for our fishing industry, for our farmers and for our newly developing secondary manufacturing industries if a road between Nova Scotia and Montreal could be built which could shorten the distance by 140 miles. This is a project which has been sleeping for far too long, and I hope that some action is taken immediately by the government to bring about international co-operation in this matter, which would be beneficial to a large area of both countries.

What action has been taken to establish a second ferry between New England and Nova Scotia? Our tourist industry is calling out for this type of assistance. Yet all we hear from the federal government are vague promises. There is nothing in the speech from the throne about this particular project, Mr. Speaker. In view of the importance of a second ferry to our agricultural industry, our fishing and tourist industry, I think it is high time that some action was taken on this important matter.

The throne speech states that legislation will be put before this session for better regulation and use of broadcasting privileges and responsibilities. In my view, this cannot be introduced too soon. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is literally like a rudderless ship without a captain, drifting about in a fog on a sea of uncertainty. It is way past the time for the government to take some action in appointing a program boss for this organization, a crown corporation which is causing great concern to many Canadians.

I say this, Mr. Speaker, because we see in this year's estimates the amount of \$143,960,000 for the C.B.C., which is an increase of \$29,476,000 in one year. In its original concept the C.B.C. was to operate as a free agent, but we are now aware that there is no such thing as free speech. If this were a private organization, by this time it would have gone broke. With the so-called creative minds in charge of the C.B.C. today, it is evident to the public that they believe this gives them the right to be irresponsible, to deal in sensationalism and to show bad taste.

There are times, Mr. Speaker, when I doubt whether the C.B.C. employees want freedom for the C.B.C. I think they want freedom only for themselves. When I was first elected in 1957 the C.B.C. estimates were approximately \$52 million a year, and I can well remember making a speech about it at the time and remarking that \$1 million a week seemed to be a lot of money to subsidize one service. I thought the figure was too high then, but today the figure is almost three times that amount. It is high time that we carefully examined this entire organization and its spending program.

Part of the throne speech calls for assistance to housing and urban development. I say that this proposal is fiction, not fact. It presents the vision of new urban living, small towns with their own community life, instead of the present concrete jungles that we call our cities. I am not going to criticize the government for looking ahead, but dreams are no substitute for necessities. Canada today is in the grip of a serious housing crisis. Rents are skyrocketing, and as a result of high levels of taxation imposed by this government in the wake of wasteful extravagance, the price of homes has reached a level far beyond the capacity of the average wage earner to pay.

It is in the Atlantic provinces, in my opinion, that Canada's policy makers should be putting forward a tremendous effort. I say this because, though we have manpower resources, we need new job opportunities. Great progress has been made, but more needs to be done and I hope the government will realize that though we have moved forward we still require assistance from the Atlantic Development Board armed with sufficient funds to help finance continued economic expansion in our area. This should be the goal, and there could be no better undertaking for the Atlantic provinces and for Canada in this our centennial year.