

of this land, we shall introduce provisions respecting bail and pre-trial detention, electronic eavesdropping, statutory instruments and the treatment of young offenders.

To assist the millions of Canadians who are consumers of goods, of services, of credit, there will be introduced measures which will permit them to know more accurately what they are getting for their money and to protect them against unfair and unscrupulous practices.

To enhance the position of members of the work force, we plan legislation which will raise the standards governing terms and conditions of employment in industries within federal jurisdiction, and to improve the quality of the collective bargaining process for the benefit of both labour and management there is legislation providing for a modern, legal framework for relations between them.

To reflect the growing belief within Canada that a rational program of income security is required, a white paper will be tabled shortly which will have a wide and, it is expected, profound impact on Canadians. Complementary to that paper and to the government's thesis that all Canadians should be assisted if need be to help themselves, that they should not be made responsible for economic difficulties over which they have no control, there will be introduced legislation to provide more and better benefits to those persons temporarily without employment. This legislation will place emphasis on assisting persons to become re-employed.

These are among the measures which we propose in order to create within Canada a better society for all Canadians, a society whose strength is derived from the individuals who live within it. For the well-being of those individuals—the men, the women, the youth—government must be concerned constantly and actively. The dignity and self-respect of every Canadian are necessary elements in the kind of Canada of which I speak. Should any of the ingredients of human dignity be absent, we must act. Fortunately, most of them are present in Canada—individual liberty, the several rights and freedoms spelled out in the Canadian Bill of Rights, equality of opportunity. Another ingredient, one that ranks with these but is more elusive of attainment, is the ability to maintain an adequate standard of living for oneself and one's dependants. Some are unable to maintain such a standard because of a lack of education or an absence of the skills necessary in today's world; others are unable to stretch their fixed incomes to meet the increased costs of necessities; still others are temporarily without employment through no fault of their own.

● (2:20 p.m.)

We must understand the needs, and attempt to assist, persons in each of these categories. There is a personal tragedy whenever a person who seeks gainful employment is unable to find it. There is equal personal tragedy whenever the cost of living overtakes and passes the total income of any person. The tragedy in each case becomes the more keen if a contributing factor to the absence of work or the advance of inflation is the greed and over indulgence of other members of the community.

The government took the position a year ago, and was supported by the vast majority of Canadians, that inflation was harmful both to our present well being and to

### *The Address—Mr. Trudeau*

our future economic growth. Reasonable price stability was a key economic goal. Everyone suffers, no one gains, from uncontrollable rise in the cost of living. Pensioners suffer, unorganized wage earners suffer, and by their own admission even the minority of Canadians suffer who form the membership of professional groups and labour unions. These latter are concerned about inflation, they say, yet they express their concern by raising their fees and by demanding higher wages. They are entitled to do so, they claim, so long as corporate profits remain high. This is their belief. They can claim higher wages and fees so long as corporate profits remain high. Since early 1969, however, profits have been falling markedly, and there are obvious limits to this process if we are not to damage the economy's ability to create new jobs in the future through productive investment. Consequently, we say that no one is entitled to take advantage of his fellow citizen. We saw that inflation must be attached with determination by all Canadians for the good of all Canadians.

To this, the Opposition replied with ridicule throughout the last session. At every increase in the cost of living index they trumpeted in this House and outside it as if this increase represented a triumph for their side. I doubt that it was a triumph for them; I know that it was no triumph for millions of Canadians. What do we hear from the Opposition now? What we hear is rather strange. What do we hear from them now that government policies have taken the wind out of the sails of inflation, now that the cost of living index has levelled off? What have they to say in reply to the fact that official OECD figures show that the Canadian struggle against inflation has been more effective than that of any other major industrialized country in the world?

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** What do they say? They say that we have devoted too much attention to inflation. They say that the price we pay for fighting it is worse than the evil of inflation, and they charge that the government favours unemployment. The kindest thing I can say about these comments is that they are stuff and nonsense.

This apparent readiness to sacrifice our newly achieved and still precarious price stability is surely a very short-sighted prescription for our present problem of unemployment. True, a linkage has been established by economists between the behaviour of prices and wages and the rate of unemployment. But it has also been shown that this trade-off is a short run phenomenon and that sacrificing price stability will not by itself aid in improving a country's long run employment situation. For this reason, the government rejects the argument that only by allowing inflation to run rampant can we reduce the rate of unemployment.

Instead, another less simplistic route must be followed. We on this side claim no magic formula, but we do promise honest attempts to meet the pressing problem of generating a sufficient number of new jobs, not only to absorb the record number of new entrants into the labour market but also to reduce gradually the distressingly high level of unemployment in many parts of the