

*Speech from the Throne*

was set by the mover of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne and emulated by the Prime Minister. They can find no one to praise them but themselves.

The Prime Minister told us how tough he and his ministers were. Yes, the Prime Minister was tough when he threatened to kick a young lad in the seat. He was tough when he hurled insults from a warm and cozy car at picketing workers who marched in the cold. This government has been tough with the old age pensioners, the veterans and the unemployed, who cannot secure the benefits to which they are entitled. Yes, it has been a tough government; tough to reach, tough to make realize its policies are not working, tough to get money out of whether you be a farmer in western Canada or a government, either provincial or municipal. Yes, it has been a tough government, tough on Canada and Canadians, but it has not been tough where it should be tough. It has not been tough in settling strikes in essential services which have tied up the nation and produced additional misery and suffering. In an area where toughness is required and desired, where the nation cries for action, there has been none.

The day of the strike in essential services has passed. A more humane approach has to be found. In the government service, these strikes just have not worked. They have turned out postal service into a shadow of a once effective and efficient operation. They were neither useful nor helpful to the air traffic controllers, who finally had to revert to binding arbitration. They are showing their ineffectiveness in the present strike of technicians. Today, as we have learned from the coal miners strike in Great Britain, they can destroy the vitality of a nation. There are no longer any by-standers in strikes in the national sector. There are no winners in such strikes.

No doubt this is the reason George Meany, probably the most powerful and knowledgeable person in North America on the effect of strikes, has said there has to be another way. In order to hasten the day when the strike in essential services will be abolished, it is my intention to introduce a bill in this House to abolish the right to strike among members of the Public Service of Canada whose work is considered to be vital to the common good of the nation. It is my hope it will receive the support of all members of this House. One would have thought this government would have gotten the clue from George Meany when he stated the day of the strike in essential services has passed. But no, this government's brain is so deadened to anything different that might be of value to the nation that it probably will not get the message for another six months, and by that time, God willing, they will not be in a position to do anything about it.

I should like now to turn to the new Unemployment Insurance legislation. It is good legislation. It has its imperfections, but those can be remedied through amendment. There is only one reason for the inefficiency that now exists in the payment of claims, and that is the government's incompetence. The government was so anxious to pat itself on the back that it could not find time to prepare either the employees of the Unemployment Insurance Commission or those who would be seeking benefits as to how the new act would work. No one can tell me that members of the Unemployment Insurance Commission could not have done the work both effectively and effi-

ciently if they had been given the proper opportunity to prepare themselves. Instead, the government imposed the new system on the nation while the old system was still in operation and is in operation at this time.

This government also committed the Unemployment Insurance Commission to complete computerization of both the old and new system without establishing a cross reference system that would have given warning of improperly completed data cards. As a result, they have brought an army of unemployed to the doors of welfare offices across this nation because they are without funds and cannot secure them, although they are entitled to them. They have forced members of the Unemployment Insurance Commission to work untold hours trying to sort out the mess, probably to the verge of nervous exhaustion. And what are we told? We have described for us the great compassion of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Mackasey) for his fellowman. This apparently is what the unemployed breadwinner is to put on his table in place of food. It is almost as tragic as the thousands who have been forced off the labour market by direct government action. Only if you watch the television advertising of the wonders of this new Unemployment Insurance legislation will you realize what a bonanza it is for the workingman of the nation. It is part of the dreamworld of Messrs. Trudeau and Mackasey that has no relationship to reality, except in their minds.

What of regional economical disparity? Like the just society, it should not be discussed. After all, it was only a slogan for the last campaign. There will be new ones for the one this year. In Atlantic Canada we have one consolation. It is a sad consolation, but it is the only one. There is more economic disparity today than was the case in 1968 all across Canada. Therefore, there are more people in exactly the same position in which people in the Atlantic provinces have been for a long time. Indeed, this condition has spread, like a plague, right across the nation. It is hard to imagine unemployment rates of 18 per cent, but that is the sad fact of the case in both Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland today.

If this government really wanted to solve the ills of the Maritimes, they could have done it with Fundy power. I know that President Roosevelt had lots of economists of the type that are now present in Ottawa who would throw their hands up in fright and quote interest rates when he brought in his new deal and established the Tennessee Valley Authority. He ignored them and this government should have also. Instead, we cannot even get this government to appoint those persons to the committee that has been delegated to re-examine the report of the programming board that carried out the initial examination of Fundy. It is very obvious this government has no time for Fundy because the mandarins have said it should not be undertaken.

We hoped we would have a viable transportation policy for our area by now. The former Minister of Transport asked the four premiers of the Atlantic provinces to produce for him their recommendations on what a viable policy would include. They presented a package to him. It was an all-inclusive package. It was inter-related. Let me quote some of the recommendations which it contained: