

the west! Those were childish and irresponsible promises, I admit; nevertheless, they were promises repeated many times by the present Prime Minister and his colleagues. Now there is an increase in the confusion which already exists. I quote from the Speech from the Throne itself:

A measure will be placed before you to provide for a minister responsible for Rural Development, in order that my Government may carry further its policy of giving increased attention to the needs of agriculture in both eastern and western Canada.

Now we find that the promise made in regard to a Minister of Agriculture has been given a different dressing. The eastern agricultural minister's uniform has been shelved for good, and a new suit has been cut to include the west as well as the east. To say the least about this, it will be just another unfilled promise, not to be forgotten by the farmers of the east.

Another departure in the Speech from the Throne was in the matter of scholarships. Where are those 10,000 scholarships which we heard so much about in the platform promises during the last federal election? Those vote-getting promises have shrunk now to a mere loan, likely to be administered by the provinces, whereby the student, after completing successfully the application form, submits to an interview with the local member of the legislative assembly, so that he may pledge himself to Liberal support before the application is finally approved. Honourable senators, this is what is taking place today in New Brunswick under the Robichaud administration.

In the Throne Speech, one point of major interest to the Canadian people is the reform of the Senate. While it may be premature to discuss this reform, as we do not know what form it will take, we are led to believe that it will be a compulsory retiring age. I am sure that when the time comes we will have an opportunity to study fully this matter. One must not forget that the value of the Senate—and I emphasize the word "value"—is the immense knowledge and irreplaceable experience in all phases of life that we find here in this chamber. It is that experience and knowledge which form the wisdom of those who have the duties of guiding the destiny of our Canada and maintaining the true democratic path. I exclude myself from the application of the word "wisdom". Therefore, if this experience and knowledge is to be replaced by physical fitness, the retiring age is not 75, not 70, but 65, in line with the Canadian working force.

Honourable senators, in regard to unemployment, during the last few months, the

Government of the day has displayed many figures relating to unemployment. I would like to extend to the Government my appreciation for what they have done and are trying to do to relieve unemployment. I am prepared to agree that they have done something about it, but I disagree with the method which the Government employs to render their figures public. You will note that as a rule the figures given indicate the number of people receiving prestations or benefits, which shows a decline. To be fair to the nation, these figures should be accompanied by the number of unemployed today not receiving such prestations, due to the lack of employment in previous months, which resulted in a shortage of stamps to qualify for prestations. The total of the two figures would give the Canadian people a true picture of the number of unemployed people today. The hundreds of thousands who are receiving prestations are no problem to anyone, but those who do not receive any are the persons who are now being overlooked and need more attention.

The Speech mentioned the establishment of a new minister to preside over the Treasury Board. If I were in the other chamber, I would have much to say about this, and so would the taxpayers of the nation.

The Speech, among its many omissions, has not a word giving any indication of further interest by the Government in the Canadian Development Corporation. It avoided any comments on biculturalism and bilingualism, which the same Government praised so highly last year.

The Speech mentioned a continuation of federal-provincial conferences, which have brought about considerable progress in the improving of federal-provincial relations.

Honourable senators, at this point I wish to congratulate the federal Government of the day in making it possible for the Atlantic Development Board to make a contribution of \$20 million toward the construction of the Mactaquac hydro electric power dams on the Saint John River. While we appreciate this donation, we should not lose sight of the fact that the board was established in 1961 by a Conservative government.

We must not lose sight of the fact that if the provincial government of New Brunswick is today in a position to build this \$100 million power dam, it is due to the good government that the Honourable Hugh John Flemming gave to the Province of New Brunswick between 1952 and 1960, which made it possible for the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission to become self-financing. A bill to that effect was introduced in the New Brunswick Legislature in 1958. Without it the dam would be just a dream.