

The Address—Mr. Coldwell

is alarmed, too, as is the city council of Winnipeg and other centres in Canada. Yet there is no mention of this important matter in the speech from the throne.

The government has left untouched the tight money policy instituted by the Liberal government when it was in office and which policy was so strongly criticized by the Conservative party when in opposition. Four months have passed since the new government was formed and a policy which did not require legislation to adopt and certainly would not require legislation to amend, change or rescind, has been carried on in the same form.

I am not suggesting for a moment that a mere change in monetary policy would suffice. Indeed without proper direction of investment, a loose-money policy would increase rather than diminish the inflation from which we are suffering. The crux of the situation is, as our amendment indicates, the planning of the development of our resources and industry under a national plan whose directors would be responsible to this parliament. This we believe is the only real solution to the economic and social problems which confront Canada today.

I am going to take the opportunity to turn to another topic for a few moments. I had thought of dealing with it today when we were discussing the interim supply bill, but knowing that I was going to speak tonight and not being quite as restricted in time as I usually am because of the amendment we moved, I decided I would include it in this talk this evening.

Naturally, I welcome the appointment of the royal commission to study the question of the use of Canadian energy resources and to ensure the most effective use of such resources in the public interest, but I am not unmindful of this, that the present party in power is faced with a problem in this regard because of its attitude in the house during the pipe line debate. I could not put my finger on it today but I know it is in *Hansard* where a former prime minister said that the establishment of a royal commission was often an excellent way of shelving a difficult problem. I hope that the setting up of this royal commission to deal with energy, oil, gas, pipe lines, and so on, is not being undertaken in order to shelve a very important problem. I think such a study is entirely desirable and, indeed, overdue.

However, there are a number of matters on which it is necessary that action should be taken before the report of any royal commission is available. Indeed, they are questions of policy that should not be shelved. I am thinking particularly of the reference of

the matter of Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited to the royal commission. I note that the question is referred in this way and I am quoting it:

Whether in view of its special relationship to the Northern Ontario Pipe Line Crown Corporation and the nature of its financing and control any special measures need to be undertaken in relation to Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited in order to safeguard the interests of Canadian producers or consumers of gas.

I believe that immediate steps are necessary, not steps that may be taken a year from now, 18 months or two years from now, after a lengthy inquiry by a royal commission.

Mr. Green: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order; I submit to Your Honour that what the hon. member is saying now is not in order. He is dealing directly with the terms of the royal commission and a subject referred to it and I submit that is not in order.

Mr. Coldwell: May I say, Mr. Speaker, that I am not dealing with the report of the royal commission. When does an announcement that a royal commission is being set up preclude discussion in this house?

Mr. Green: On the point of order, it is not a matter of a royal commission to be set up. The royal commission has been set up by order in council and it has been a recognized rule in this house for many years that such a subject cannot be discussed.

Mr. Chevrier: On the point of order, I am astounded at my hon. friend making the statement he has. I remember a few years ago when I sat on the other side of the house an attitude such as he has taken tonight was taken by some hon. members then and he was the one who protested most. But let me say this. My hon. friend is discussing the speech from the throne. Under the rules, as I understand them at least, he has the right to discuss any subject. Certainly the Prime Minister when he made his point the other day and the announcement which followed did not indicate in any way that anyone was precluded from discussing the terms of reference. The commission has not made a report. There is nothing sub judice. In the circumstances I submit to you, sir, with deference, that the hon. member has every right to do what he is doing.

Mr. Green: If the commission had made a report that would be an entirely different matter. It has not made a report and this matter is sub judice.