

*The Address—Mr. Coldwell*

house adopted a measure to prevent the setting of prices by private monopolistic corporations. As I remember, it was not those who are alleged this afternoon to be, shall I say, socialists either in overalls or in top hats, who objected to the prevention of the exploitation of the Canadian people by these monopolistic practices. It was indeed none other than the official opposition which kept parliament in session not only for several weeks but brought it back again after the Christmas vacation in order to try to prevent the putting into effect of amendments to the combines act.

When we talk of competition, how much competition is there in business today? What competition is there for the Aluminum Company of Canada? What competition is there among a number of other great companies all across Canada? Let us take oil. When the Imperial Oil Company sets a price of 42 cents a gallon in this part of Canada all the companies set a price of 42 cents a gallon.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Oh, wonderful competition!

**Mr. Coldwell:** You can run right down the line and you will find that many corporations that are said to be competitive are monopolistic. If we are going to have competition, if this is to be a competitive system, then let us be consistent and throw competition wide open in every field of human endeavour. I am sure none of us would want to do that. As the Prime Minister said this afternoon, the control of alcoholic beverages and their sale is a matter of public concern. So indeed is an efficient transportation system and the control of rates in the air, on the railways and elsewhere.

Looking at the speech from the throne, I want to say first of all that we join with the government, of course, in expressing satisfaction that collective action by the United Nations in Korea has achieved substantial results already. We hope that a political conference will be held and will restore peace in Korea. I had the great privilege this year again of being present at the United Nations assembly, and one of the disturbing factors is the attitude of Syngman Rhee and the great influence he seems to exercise over the great republic to the south of us. Even in today's *Montreal Gazette* we are told that Washington sources have reported that the United States would be willing for India to sit in on the conference provided it is agreeable to South Korea's president Syngman Rhee, who has been bitterly opposed to this.

We in the democratic world have risked losing much of the sympathy and support of the great commonwealth country of India

because of the manner in which her proposed presence at the forthcoming conference has been treated by the United States through, I believe, the influence of Syngman Rhee. I think our government was perfectly right at the seventh assembly in instructing our delegation to the United Nations to join with other commonwealth and other countries in supporting the inclusion of India at the forthcoming conference.

I do not want to deal with international affairs at the moment. I presume there will be an opportunity when the external affairs estimates are referred to the appropriate committee, but if I have time a little later this afternoon I shall make one or two further comments.

The speech from the throne also states that Canada's total volume of external trade has reached record levels. That is true. But unfortunately the policy of the government with regard to trade and commerce has created serious problems in our trading relationships, because we have been relying more and more upon the very uncertain and unpredictable market in the United States. Those of us who have been in Canada for a long period of years and those who were raised and brought up here and have lived beyond middle life know that from time to time when we thought we had an assured market in that great country it has been cut off, owing to pressure groups within the United States. Indeed, the government signed the Geneva agreements in 1947 and the late prime minister, the Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, brought them to the house for approval. They were criticized and they were not approved by the house, but they were put into effect one year before Canada needed to do so. This resulted in eliminating certain concessions that we had given to the United Kingdom and which enabled the United Kingdom to earn dollars in this country, in the belief that we were assuring ourselves a larger market in the United States for certain of our products, particularly for some of our farm products including dairy products.

Then by unilateral action the United States suddenly excluded cheese, powdered milk and some other commodities from that market. By unilateral action the United States has set aside some of the provisions of the Geneva agreement which we thought would be beneficial to us, and which persuaded us to enter into that agreement. I want to say this to the government. We are in favour of agreements of this description, but if we are going to have such agreements we should have the firm assurance of countries participating, and particularly the United States, that these agreements will be carried out in full, that there