

The Address—Mr. Chatterton

I must say, too, that many people in British Columbia are not aware of the fact that this government does in fact pay a subsidy toward transportation across the straits of Georgia. This is in the form of a 40 per cent subsidy applied to the construction cost of the two ferries already built which service this strait and the two new ones under construction. There will be others. In effect, therefore, this government does contribute something toward transportation in that area.

More and more, Mr. Speaker, this is becoming an age of technology where higher education, technical and vocational proficiency are important. Our government is already contributing generously in these fields, but the proposed increase of some 33 per cent in grants to universities is timely and far sighted. This assistance will be particularly welcome to the University of Victoria. This institution had an enviable record as the former Victoria college, but is now a full fledged, degree granting university which is expanding at the phenomenal rate of something like 400 pupils per annum. I know this university will welcome this additional assistance, particularly in view of the fact that certain assistance from the province was withdrawn from that institution this year.

The throne speech mentions acreage payments, and that matter has been dealt with by the house. This does not affect my riding, but it does indicate the attitude of this government toward the farmers of Canada. My own riding contains a large percentage of small farmers. The Farm Credit Act, itself an excellent piece of legislation, is very helpful, too. However, I estimate that some 75 per cent of the farmers in my riding could not qualify for assistance under this act. I think in due course the government, with its usual concern for the farmers, will give some thought to some assistance to these smaller farmers who cannot qualify for assistance under the Farm Credit Act.

In spite of the gloom and doom so generously spread by certain people there is a feeling of optimism in my riding, where the future promises much as a result of the positive measures taken by this government. Industries are expanding, and although I must admit that the present employment situation in H.M.C. Dockyard is not too good, the fact is that the shipbuilding industry is expanding. The future in that regard is very promising, largely as a result of the subsidies introduced by this government.

Because of the federal assistance given under the winter works program for sewage works and so on, municipalities, particularly the municipality of Saanich, are undertaking worthwhile projects which otherwise might

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have been left undone. But in spite of this glowing picture there is one group in my riding who face the future with some concern. I refer to the commercial fishermen. Although the government has enacted certain measures to assist commercial fishermen, I believe some consideration might be given to more research and experimentation in connection with the preservation and restoration of the resources in the sea, and to an investigation into some means for better distribution of this crop amongst those who harvest it.

There is a general upsurge of economic activity in my riding and it is gratifying to note the references in the throne speech to extending the expansionist measures already undertaken by our government. In this regard I quote two headlines from the Victoria daily *Colonist*. The first appeared on January 13, 1962, and read "Victoria port business soars to all time high." No doubt that is largely due to the exports which have been promoted by the government. The other headline from the daily *Colonist* of January 6, 1962, reads: "More people working than in past decade." Judging by the previous reaction of members opposite to suggestions of good tidings, no doubt they will bring out their brushes dripping with black colour paints but I believe the mass of Canadians have a greater insight into this government's accomplishments and will so indicate at the appropriate time.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Now that we are back on the throne speech we can engage in discussion on a variety of things. It affords members an opportunity to do substantially what the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich just did, and affords them an opportunity to talk about particular matters that may have arisen even within the last few hours. For my part I would like to reiterate, as I did in past sessions, a thought or thoughts concerning parliament itself. I do not attempt to say this out of any desire to degrade parliament or anybody in it, but I believe parliament as an institution is more of a dictatorship than it is a democratic institution.

Over quite a number of years there has been a growth in the strengthening and popularizing of the party system. Because of this development of the party system, more rigid control and authority is placed in the hands of a cabinet than was originally conceived many years ago when the thought of responsible government first came to the attention of our forefathers. We have a great desire to express our differences of opinion behind closed doors in caucus, and that is especially so on the government side. In making that statement I am not applying it to