

The Address—Mr. Brown

Canada will have to make some real decisions, because I think we are coming to the crossroad. We must decide in which direction we are going.

We have heard a lot of rhetoric. We have heard a lot of old clichés, platitudes and prose. I suggest that this is no longer good enough. We must get down to the real issues and build a society in Canada that people can control, participate in and reap the benefits. In Canada we must build a democratic socialist society in which everyone, regardless of economic or social background, can participate and play a part. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that this be our challenge in the years to come. If all of us in this House of Commons sit down and seriously try to change things and not just talk about them, perhaps we will get a lot further.

Mr. J. E. Brown (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I intervene in this debate in order to deal with two vital matters which in my opinion are linked together and are of great importance to the constituency of Brant. I trust that hon. members will be patient with me while I deal with the first subject which I have on many occasions emphasized in this House. This subject involves a matter which will shortly, I am sure, be dealt with in discussions between our government and the government of my province of Ontario. I refer specifically to the project of the restoration of the Grand River which flows through the constituency of Brant, and especially the restoration of navigation for pleasure craft passing through one of the most scenic and historic parts of the province of Ontario.

This subject should not be laughed at or belittled by any hon. member. Of course, it is not being laughed at or belittled by anyone, but I ask all hon. members to bear with me while I plead the cause of every man, woman and young person in Brant, in the province of Ontario, which I represent in Parliament. The need for an available source of recreation is great. It is great for the large population of my area. We have the Grand River flowing majestically behind the great city of Hamilton where boating is available, the best that can be found in the province of Ontario. It extends far beyond the limits of the county which I represent, flowing as it does behind Hamilton and then past the Six Nations Indian reserve and on to Lake Erie.

The project has been mentioned by many, but I am the one who has brought the matter to the attention of the House during many sessions. The project which I recommend would involve the reconstruction of about five dams between Port Maitland at the mouth of the Grand River and Newport, Ontario, just outside the city of Brantford. Most of this area lies in the constituency which is so ably represented in this House by the hon. member for Norfolk-Haldimand (Mr. Knowles), who I am sure agrees with everything I am saying to the House this afternoon.

The recommendation calls also for a scenic highway between Brantford and the mouth of the river. This is a provincial matter, of course, but it is also federal because the Grand River from its mouth as far as Brantford has since early days been regarded as a navigable waterway

[Mr. Nystrom.]

in western Ontario. Therefore, that waterway without doubt comes within the jurisdiction of Parliament. The recommendation I am making calls also for a strip park along the banks of the Grand River, and perhaps the formation of a Sir Frederick Haldimand national park a little farther down the river in the neighbouring constituency. I have said this before and I say it again: my 1949 Encyclopedia Britannica lists Brantford, Ontario, as one of the chief Canadian ports of entry.

An hon. Member: You must be kidding.

Mr. Brown: What I have said is a well known fact, publicized by none other than the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brown: Construction of these dams, the scenic highway and adjoining parkland would not cost too much money, nowhere near as much as has been spent on the upper Grand River. The lower Grand River needs development no matter what the Kitchener-biased Grand River Conservation Authority may say about this matter, or may have done up to the present time. The hon. member is not in his seat at the moment. Also, we are witnessing tremendous industrial development taking place at Nanticoke, which makes it imperative that the federal and provincial authorities arrange to purchase all the available recreational land so that it can be saved for future and present generations.

The project I am talking about is a conservational and recreational matter. It is a project of great importance to all persons living in the Brant-Haldimand, Norfolk-Hamilton-Wentworth area. It is a project that will be utilized in the days to come.

Mr. Gibson: Hear, hear!

● (5:50 p.m.)

Mr. Brown: I am glad, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth (Mr. Gibson) has cheered, because it is a project that will be utilized in the future by the inhabitants of the Golden Horseshoe of Ontario lying only a stone's throw away, where people have to tow their boats hundreds of miles up north when they could simply be putting them on the Grand, that magnificent, scenic waterway which flows past and through my constituency and near Norfolk and other neighbouring areas of great importance. Millions of dollars have been spent by the federal government on the development of the Trent and Rideau waterways, yet since Confederation hardly a cent has been spent on the Grand. This is where the majority of the people live. I admit, Mr. Speaker, that I have not been a very good Member of Parliament, otherwise this and past governments would have done something about the matter.

I now come to my second point. Unfortunately, in my constituency for the past year and a half there has been heavy unemployment. I do not like this at all. I do not