

means to achieve them. I already stressed in this House our lack of influence and certain evil consequences that would be brought about in Western Canada by a loss of representation to Parliament.

What we fear above all, Mr. Speaker, is that people not knowing well Western Canada would make decisions closely affecting us. We are afraid that members representing other areas throughout Canada be the ones to actually pass measures that would not always be for the good of Canada as a whole but too often for the good of their constituency or their area only.

I can understand the immediate problems that exist in their case but I entreat them today, Mr. Speaker, to look towards the future. I add that those who would fear too great an influence from Western Canada have nothing to be afraid of in that regard.

We are not opposed to representation by population, but we believe that it is time to recognize that they are other criteria. We must not leave to a large number of members who do not represent a region, too much influence on the natural resources of another region.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, find unacceptable I that we from Southern Canada, should decide upon the future of the North-West Territories while too many of us know very little about that region. That is how colonialism takes place. That is what turns one region against another. Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will have the opportunity during this session deal with this important problem.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, I should like to continue to outline the problems of western Canada. The Speech from the Throne is very positive in respect of our concerns. There are proposals in it to take advantage of the potential of western Canada in the area of food production. I welcome proposals to increase the supply of food. I welcome proposals to encourage young farmers to become established and to avoid placing them in a debtor situation. If we are to encourage these young people, we must give them an opportunity to live without having to repay large capital loans which carry high interest charges. I hope to say more about this matter during the current session.

There are other positive proposals in this throne speech which apply to western Canada. But let me give you a warning, Mr. Speaker: let me tell you that we must not adopt these measures as a means of holding western Canada in a dependent situation. Let us not simply favour food production in the interest of Canadian consumers. In my view, we must complement this positive policy by ensuring that increased food production on the prairies leads to the establishment of secondary industries to process the crops grown in western Canada.

Here we have the nub of the question. This is what I am talking about when I say that we must expand the economic base of western Canada. If western Canadians knew they were not simply to grow food for the benefit of consumers, but also for the benefit of their young people who would like to remain on the prairies, which they know best, that would go a long way toward making western Canadians feel that others are concerned about them. Let me add that not enough Canadians understand this desire. Not enough Canadians, especially the policy-

The Address—Mr. J. P. Guay

makers and those in a position to do something about it, are prepared to reverse the population drain from the prairies by creating secondary industries in western Canada. This is one area in which the natural advantages of the prairies must be seen and acted upon.

Mr. Speaker, let me address myself to other matters of concern to western Canada. May I begin by congratulating the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) for calling the first western economic opportunities conference which was held in Calgary last July.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Schumacher: What has happened to it?

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): If it were worth while to give an answer to the hon. member, I would do so; but I do not consider it worth while. I say the "first" conference because I hope there will be other such conferences. A number of meetings of this kind will be required to ensure that this government and the prairie governments understand each other clearly. But this first conference demonstrated to the citizens of western Canada that this government—and I am not speaking here necessarily in partisan terms—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): —is sensitive to the concerns of western Canadians. This initiative must continue and must be followed up. I am surprised that the hon. member for Palliser (Mr. Schumacher), a western Canadian, would make the comments he has been making while I speak about the benefit to western Canadians. I am surprised that a man coming from Alberta, even though a Conservative, would choose to interfere when another member is placing before the House the case for western Canadians. It is known that he has sung the same swan-song as his leader. They use double-talk. They do things in an attempt to trip somebody else, but they are not sincere in respect of the people whom they represent. I am surprised, Mr. Speaker; I felt the hon. member would be sincere in representing his people, because there are no Liberal members from Alberta. I thought we could depend on him to represent the people, but I am afraid he is not doing so. When he makes the type of comments he has been making, he does not help anybody in western Canada.

May I repeat that I congratulate the Prime Minister and the government for calling this first western economic opportunities conference which has been of benefit to western Canada. I repeat that it must be followed by other such conferences.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but it is ten o'clock.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I just want to make clear that I am calling it ten o'clock. I have not completed my remarks.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The Chair noted that the hon. member has the floor, and he will still have the floor tomorrow.