

promise to provide transportation links and facilities to assure adequate power supplies at the lowest possible price throughout the Atlantic provinces, or the promise to develop an across Canada oil pipeline, extending it beyond Montreal to the Atlantic provinces.

We must not forget the promises to provide special funds to assist rural industrial development; to continue the decentralization of the federal government to better serve the residents of the Atlantic provinces, providing more jobs in the process—and I hope the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Richardson) is listening. We must not forget the promise to examine regional wage policies to ensure equity for all public service employees, something that has not been done for generations in our area. We must not forget the promise to provide assistance to the shipbuilding industry, or the promise, in co-operation with the provinces, to provide a complete network of all-weather highways through the Atlantic region, connecting to major markets in central Canada and the United States.

We must not forget the promise to expand the interprovincial ferry service, with new modern ferries for Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and a replacement for the Yarmouth ferry, the *Bluenose*. We must not forget the promise to ensure an adequate reserve of freight rail cars for the shipment of Atlantic products and to develop three deep water ports in the Atlantic provinces. We must not forget the promise to invest \$150 million over the next five years to provide better breakwaters, wharfs and haul-outs, to provide a new assistance program for vessel and gear improvement, and to implement an income stabilization plan for fishermen to ensure a reasonable average level of earnings.

We must not forget the promise to extend CMHC housing programs to rural parts of the Atlantic provinces and to provide increased financial assistance to the provinces for land assembly programs. We must not forget the promise to provide a \$3 million program to promote and market agricultural products from the Atlantic provinces and to provide a special loan and grant program to assist and encourage family farm operators to modernize and improve their farm operations. These promises, and many more—and I will not burden the House by reading them all—must not be forgotten.

Neither must we forget the Prime Minister's special policy on fisheries as announced on June 21, 1974. His 17-point program covered the waterfront, from extending Canada's jurisdiction for fisheries to the edge of the continental shelf and slope to providing incentives so that fish catches are processed in Canadian plants, a program which would be very helpful today in Nova Scotia.

These are some of the solemn pledges they made. They won votes for this government, and the Prime Minister and his colleagues have had ample time to enact these promises into legislation. I, for one, Madam Speaker, as well, I am sure, as my colleagues from Atlantic Canada, intend to hold this government to its promises—promises which the Liberal party has claimed can be the salvation of an area neglected and discriminated against since confederation.

Mr. Stanfield: They have already been repudiated.

The Address—Mr. Crouse

Mr. Crouse: As my leader has said, some of them have already been repudiated because I do not believe many of the promises made by the Liberal Party as priority items were included in the Speech from the Throne. I would point out to you, Madam Speaker, that promises without performance will do nothing for our people.

During this inflationary period we have heard much about the cost of food and the impact of rising food prices on our urban society. I am very happy to be following the speech of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan). When considering this matter, I believe we must be realistic. I believe we must take a long-term view of the problem. Canadians, in their own self-interest, must protect their agricultural industry and their supply of food. Obviously, consumers must pay a reasonable share of their income for food now so that our farmers can stay in business, or in a few years' time there will be even greater shortages and consumers will have to pay unrealistic prices by today's standards.

We have heard much in recent weeks about the spoilage of eggs. Canadians will not condone the mistakes made by the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency in allowing this to happen. However, this is only the tip of the iceberg and points up the need for closer supervision of our food stocks once they are produced, as well as the need for improved storage facilities. Our surplus eggs should have been made into egg powder, as they were in war time, and either stored for future use in times of scarcity or donated to the millions who are today starving in developing countries. There is absolutely no excuse for allowing food, once produced, to rot and be destroyed when we consider that right now, while I am speaking in this House, millions of people are starving throughout the world.

● (1730)

However, I hope that the officials of the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency have learned a lesson from their mistakes and have taken steps to make certain that they will not happen again. I say this because the world's population is increasing.

We are told that the next generation will have to produce twice as much food because the world's population is expected to double by 1980. Other expectations and demands are also doubling. But the weather is not co-operating. All the productive land is now being farmed or utilized, and the possibility is being discussed of farming the vast areas of muskeg in Northern Canada. This, of course, would require tremendous expenditures in labour and energy, and if the world's supply of food for increasing populations is to be sought from these latitudes, the cost will be so excessive that the world's standard of living must go down and down.

For every problem there is a solution and I believe that if Canada is to play its role in meeting the challenge of feeding a hungry world, then this country will have to give agricultural development the same priority in future years that it has already given industrial development.

The present government, in establishing new priorities for agriculture, must give consideration to the organization and application of our human resources. I realize that in our so-called free enterprise economy we cannot force people to work on the farm. But the fact that a majority of