

*The Address—Mr. Serré*

**Mr. Serré:** I should like to tell the House, Mr. Speaker, that I was not referring to the vote which was taken here yesterday.

This is a time for statesmanship, for leadership such as our Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has been giving us all along during these difficult moments in our history. Even though these sad events are most deplorable, it is my firm belief that they will have served to unite us all more strongly than ever.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in congratulating the two members who distinguished themselves so much by moving and seconding the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, namely the member for Bourassa and the member for Assiniboia (Messrs Trudel and Douglas), the former, an accomplished businessman and the latter the farmers' untiring spokesman. Both performed their task in a masterly manner, and have shown once again the great worth of the men recruited by the Liberal party at the last election.

Mr. Speaker, on reading carefully the Speech from the Throne, one can find a keener desire on the part of the government to take concrete steps aimed at establishing the just society, which is the ideal of any true democracy and of most Canadians.

With a view to enabling the Canadian people to participate in the establishment of a sound policy, the government intends to pursue its policy of issuing white papers, while implementing bills carefully prepared in the past two years with the help of the whole population.

I am delighted to find that the government will keep on intensifying its fight against air and water pollution by setting up a department responsible for the environment and by introducing a piece of legislation on air pollution.

● (9:10 p.m.)

God knows that the pollution problem worries us in the Nickel Belt. Needless to say, the situation has become alarming. The main industry, INCO, has been allowed far too long to deteriorate the ecology of the area. To be sure, great efforts have been made recently and the company spends fantastic sums of money to remedy the situation, but it is rather late in the day.

The provincial government, which has jurisdiction in that field, has certainly been remiss in its duty. It should have forced the company to take the necessary preventive measures. It even should, in the present context, punish the polluters severely, be they giants like INCO, a small industry or even an individual.

Since the provincial government has been unable to control pollution in our part of northern Ontario, the federal government should take the initiative and set up a pollution research and control center at Sudbury's Laurentian University, right in the center of northern Ontario. Such a center could co-ordinate the initiatives at every government level. People are becoming extremely

*[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel).]*

impatient and I am sure they are favourably impressed by what our government is doing in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, our life in the Sudbury area has far too long been conditioned by the mining industry, the only major industry controlled by foreign capital. INCO has always exploited our abundant natural resources, making enormous profits every year, without concerning itself enough with the living conditions its operations create for the people in the area.

I feel that it should contribute more to the various community services such as housing, transportation, education, recreation and so on that are required by its employees and all citizens in the area.

Such an operation being controlled by foreign interests, of course, it cannot be totally sensitive to local problems. Therefore, my constituents and myself shall certainly follow with interest the developments resulting from the white paper on the control of our economy shortly to be tabled by the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Gray).

I recognize that foreign investments have been and remain necessary to the development of some of our resources. However, I consider that the government should take the necessary means, as soon as possible, to make sure that we have better control over our economy.

The recent proposal of the Ontario Liberal party to the effect that 50 per cent of our national interests should be controlled by Canadians seems to be quite reasonable in the present circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, our area is greatly in need of both secondary industries and investments. But prospective investors are often afraid of moving into our area because we lack adequate means of transportation.

The cost of living is higher than elsewhere, especially owing to lack of competition and to exorbitant freight rates. For instance, I believe that the railway companies exercise discrimination against northern Ontario, where they have set the rates higher than in other parts of the country.

I have asked and I am still asking that the Department of Transport undertake a full study on this problem and insist that this abnormal situation be rectified as soon as possible.

When I talk of inadequate transport facilities I refer specifically to air transport, the worst in my opinion. For example, our only airport, operated by the city of Sudbury, is too small to give good service to the 200,000 odd citizens of the area. An expansion program is imperative. The increase in air traffic makes it long overdue. Aware that the city of Sudbury is not in a position to undertake such an expansion program entailing expenditures of a few million dollars, I suggest that the Department of Transport take immediately the necessary steps in order to take over its operations.

After all, Mr. Speaker, that airport has to become regional because it has to service not only the city of Sudbury, but dozens of surrounding municipalities. I therefore hope that the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) will take notice of my suggestions and that he