

I have mentioned some of the things to which the Throne Speech refers. Now I should mention those to which no reference is made, especially the matter of constitutional review.

I have always felt that the present Prime Minister is really not anxious to bring into existence a new constitution for Canada. The urgency may not be felt everywhere to the same degree, but there is no doubt in my mind that these repeated federal-provincial conferences which do not give rise to concrete solutions are not at all conducive to the understanding that we are seeking to build up between the various regions of Canada and among all the segments of its population. Quite the contrary: such indecision and seeming paralysis on the part of the governments involved can be generative only of more divisiveness.

In conclusion, I should say that this Government has no reason to be proud of its record of achievement. It needs to redouble its efforts if it seriously intends to accomplish anything significant.

We, on this side of the chamber, remain, as always, determined to do all we can to help alleviate the huge problems facing this country and the Government. Our only hope is that the Government is prepared to propose the type and quality of legislation which is needed to bring about just and adequate solutions.

The Just Society need not have been a farce; it need not have been a fatuous, empty, cheap slogan. The Just Society need not have become an illusion, an evanescent ideal. The Just Society could have been—only, it died of neglect.

Hopefully, the party guilty of this dreadful neglect will itself be accorded the same fate—come the next general election.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Martin, debate adjourned.

POVERTY

ACTIVITIES OF SPECIAL SENATE COMMITTEE

Hon. David A. Croll rose pursuant to notice:

That he will call the attention of the Senate to the activities of the Special Senate Committee on Poverty and in particular during the summer adjournment.

He said: Honourable senators, I very much enjoyed the speech made by the Leader of the Opposition. I enjoyed its content, its scope and its humour. As to its logic and possible overtones of politics, I will leave that to the Leader of the Government.

I have not prepared my text as I usually do. It is not easy to do much orderly thinking these days. One just keeps wondering whether it is all true. These are days of sorrow, shame and anger. Yet there is also courage and hope—yes, increased hope for unity—for, in our hour of need, a great Canadian rose to Olympian heights.

The vice-chairman and I felt that the new session of Parliament offered us an opportunity to speak to the

[Hon. Mr. Flynn.]

Senate on some aspects of our study and on the problems that confront us in the Special Committee on Poverty.

This may be the last opportunity we will have before bringing in our report, although it is still some distance away. As far as I am concerned there is one particular document that was issued by the National Council on Welfare to which I will have reference. We have not forgotten that this house gave us a mandate to seek out the root causes of poverty and to recommend proposals for the short-term alleviation of them and their long-term eradication. The poor want some action immediately.

On June 25 of this year, as Chairman of the committee I gave a progress report which appears in the Senate *Hansard* commencing at page 1355. The committee was established in January 1969 and hearings commenced in Ottawa in April of that year. Up until we went out on our last tour we had visited and held hearings in the provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, British Columbia and Ontario. After Parliament adjourned for its holidays in June, we set out on our last series of visits, and held hearings in the five provinces we had not yet visited. We also held hearings in the Yukon. For the duration of that series of visits weekly short resumés of the highlights of the meetings were sent to every member of the Senate.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): And they were very good indeed.

Hon. Mr. Croll: Thank you. As we moved around the country we kept our eyes and ears open. When we returned to Ottawa we had had a good look at the bitter face of poverty in its many forms: rural, urban, metropolitan, Indian and Métis. We did not like what we had seen.

During our meetings, which were always open and available to anyone who wanted to attend, we made it a point to make the poor feel that somebody cared about them and that not everybody was against them. Whatever other message we may have put across, that one we did get across to them. I believe we have been successful in holding out hopes and expectations to the poor across the country and in showing them that they must involve themselves in solutions, thereby helping us to help them.

We gave some particular attention to Newfoundland and New Brunswick and were very fortunate in having on the committee Senator Cook and Senator Carter from Newfoundland, and Senators Fergusson, Fournier (Mada-waska-Restigouche) and McGrand from New Brunswick. This house little appreciates the prestige and respect which these senators command in their home provinces—just as they do among us.

Senator Carter took a small committee up to Labrador. What a trip! It is worth taking a look at the four or five pages of our Minutes that he wrote on the trip. You will find them very interesting. Senator Cook shepherded us to Fogo Island and other parts of Newfoundland, and that