

end the discrimination in freight rates. It intends to end discrimination against women. The details, of course, are absent. Therefore, for all Canadians only time will tell whether the intentions written into the Throne Speech will be translated into the kind of action they appear on the surface to promise.

● (1410)

Frankly, I do not put too much faith in intentions. I presume the government's intentions are good and reliable, but most of us have heard, among our families and friends, such phrases as: I intended to do so and so but I completely forgot. I intended to do that but it just slipped my mind. I intended to, but I didn't have time. Sometimes the use of "intended" is simply an excuse—and a poor one at that—for not doing anything definite. We know the old saying, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." I hope that is not going to be true of the intentions contained in the Speech from the Throne.

The Speech generated a very cool reception at best across Canada, but Throne Speeches have never been known to meet with widespread enthusiasm. The majority of the Western premiers who anticipated it would contain strong and positive responses to concerns raised at last year's Western Economic Opportunities Conference were disappointed. Both Westerners and Easterners alike could hardly feel overly optimistic that their transportation and energy problems were going to be tackled and resolved satisfactorily.

Prime Minister Trudeau called the Throne Speech a matter-of-fact program of action. Obviously it is intended as a major weapon against escalating inflation, but unless it is translated into legislation and policies far more effective than those applied to inflation thus far, it will please very few.

Every other issue aside, the spiralling cost of living still dominates public concern, and the government's response to that will be seen as time goes on.

Senator Perrault criticizes the Leader of the Opposition in the other place for opposing the government's program to combat the price spiral. He criticizes Mr. Stanfield because of his having a program of short-term control and follow-up measures. Senator Perrault said, "These measures have not been specified and no details have been given." I say to the Senate that surely as a businessman Senator Perrault would not give away his plans to his competitors if he were bringing out something new. And Mr. Stanfield would not give away anything that would help his political opponents; he would wait until the time becomes ripe to detail his plans—that is, when he takes over the government. This is what the senator said:

It is to be hoped that shortly the Leader of the Opposition in the other place will bring himself to providing a detailed list of proposed controls as well as a list of specific measures which should follow these controls.

I would gather that he, like myself, hopes and believes that Mr. Stanfield is to be the next Prime Minister of Canada and will be in a position to do this, and soon.

I realize that it is quite in order for any member of Parliament to criticize the Leader of the Opposition in the other place, but I was a little disturbed when Senator Perrault mentioned the Stanfield Limited firm and the

price increase made necessary in the manufacture of underwear over the past few years. I am sorry Senator Perrault is not in the house as I am saying these things, but that cannot be helped.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** He has been away since he made those remarks.

**Hon. Mr. Laing:** Senator Perrault is ill.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** He should be, after saying that.

**Hon. Mr. Blois:** I trust he was not suggesting that the prices of Stanfield garments are unnecessarily high. It is true that the firm in question is controlled by the Stanfield family, but Mr. Bob Stanfield is not, and never has been, an officer or director of that company. No doubt he is a shareholder and probably quite a large shareholder, but he has absolutely nothing to do with the formulating of plans for that company. I am pointing out these facts because I think Senator Perrault was trying to throw a certain amount of blame on Mr. Stanfield and also perhaps trying to degrade the company. Furthermore, apparently Senator Perrault does not know that the Stanfield company has been in business for over 100 years. Perhaps it would be just as well, since he opened up the subject, if I were to give Senator Perrault some information about this company. They have constantly paid fair dividends to their shareholders and any extra profits have been put aside to purchase new equipment and construct new buildings, et cetera. Today, as always, it is one of the most modern and up-to-date textile plants in North America, with exceptionally good working conditions. I am very proud of that company, of which for 40 years I was the general superintendent or mill manager in charge of manufacturing. I was also a director for 29 years. I am most proud of the fact that during my years with them I put into effect the plan of paying equal rates of pay to male and female employees. I believe I was the first to do that in Canada, and, as a matter of fact, I think few in Canada have ever done that, and I am quite proud of that fact.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Blois:** Someone has asked me when that was. If my memory serves me correctly, I believe it was in 1947-48.

The Stanfield company had the finest pension plan of any manufacturing company in Canada, and for the last few years they have had a guaranteed wage plan for all their employees. This plan went into effect around 1966-67. I only wish we had many such manufacturing plants in Canada, which gives steady employment to 1,000 or more persons. I repeat that I am saying this particularly for the benefit of Senator Perrault.

**Hon. Mr. McElman:** Moreover, they turn out a first-rate product.

**Hon. Mr. Blois:** I was not making these remarks for the purpose of advertising. I was simply getting back at certain people for what I considered to be unfair remarks. The company does not need the advertising.

Now, I should like to make a few remarks on the subject of unemployment insurance. The Leader of the Opposition in the other place has called for a major inquiry into the operation of the unemployment insurance program. I