

The Address—Mr. Martineau

In the field of fiscal responsibilities, we must end this orgy of government spending. The Canadian citizen, the Canadian taxpayer is alarmed, and rightly so, at this gigantic bureaucracy which knows no bounds and which does not make sense. The taxpayer is alarmed at the increasing cost of this government machine, and with this increase, there is the increase in taxes, followed by its inseparable companion, galloping inflation. Do we ever think how much the service of the national debt costs every year?

Mr. Speaker, some may contend that people do not care about such things. I know that these gentlemen who sit on the government benches do not care; but people do care. They have lots of common sense and know that this runaway inflation can only result in the worst of economic disasters.

And yet, the United States is giving us the example by reducing taxes. Indeed, a tax reduction of \$11,500,000,000 was announced last week, which is likely to give a shot in the arm to the American economy. I submit that what was done in the United States can and should be done in Canada; otherwise, a continuous shrinking and decline of our economy will take place.

And what about our economic development? That is the key to real prosperity.

Barren discussions on the best way to distribute funds which are already insufficient do not increase the wealth of the people. Only a united effort to speed up our production and productivity will actually increase our national inheritance.

In order to achieve this end we must strive to increase our population, we must keep on increasing it at a growing rate.

We also need measures to stimulate secondary industry. Moreover, we need planning—here is conservatism once more—but planning that would be consistent with the principles of a free economy, which we have always promoted, planning that would be adequate so as to reach our economic purposes.

We must strive to ensure profit-sharing between employers and employees, so that everyone will be able to benefit by his labour and, as productivity increases, so will prosperity and then our people will become home owners at all social levels.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to reach the objectives mentioned above, we must establish the appropriate organizations and invest them with real authority, not only a semblance as is the case of the present national economic council.

And lastly, our program should be based on respect of the confederative pact. And I say confederative pact purposely, because if the

letter and the various documents which form the basis of our constitution are liable to amendment, the spirit of the constitution is not.

It is this spirit or, if you prefer, this attitude which has made possible such a confederative union. This generous attitude forecast the union of the two races, both enjoying perfect equality and together contributing to build a new country which would extend from one ocean to the other and would become one of the most powerful in the world.

Confederation was born out of such a dream and of such an ideal which inspired the founders of our nation. Unfortunately, we have lost that spirit. The present government, like the previous Liberal administration, has undertaken bureaucratic centralization. The Conservative party has always been wary of the expansion of bureaucracy.

The legislation that we passed during our tenure of office was in the historic tradition of our party and stressed in a practical way the association of two equal partners under the constitution, which is the very basis of confederation.

During our annual convention we made an important gesture by appointing the hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Balcer) as the Quebec leader and chief assistant to the national leader of the Conservative party (Mr. Diefenbaker).

Today we advocate a true federalism which as such would be of a co-operative nature—with the Liberals, co-operation is only an empty word—and to achieve that objective, I recommend a program of action which would include the repatriation of the Canadian constitution and its revision in accordance with our new needs. In that connection, it is interesting to go over the few words the Minister of Justice (Mr. Favreau) had to say this morning when I asked him if he thought that amendments to the constitution were desirable. This is what he replied:

Mr. Speaker, I deny having stated over the week end that amendments to the constitution were desirable, but I admit having said that if changes became necessary to solve some existing problems, a study should be made to that effect in order to reach the proper conclusions.

That is what is called exciting the daring and putting fresh heart into the weak.

If that is an example of the federal co-operation or co-operative federalism hon. gentlemen opposite can offer us, I feel it will be a long time before we get out of the present do-nothing policy.

Mr. Speaker, this program also includes the recognition, in theory and in practice, of two racial groups and, therefore, of the free association of both groups, through the incorporation of the equality aspirations in the