

*The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker*

Nations? What is going to be done on the part of Canada in order to show that the laws of morality and justice cannot be defied and that the authority of the United Nations cannot be flouted in the manner in which it has been done by Hungary in recent days. For after all law, however beneficial, becomes ineffective and in fact an incitement to lawlessness, unless it is enforced.

I want to ask the Prime Minister what views he has with regard to the recent declaration of President Eisenhower relative to the policy for the Middle East in so far as the military end of it is concerned. With the exception that there are reservations in large measure, it represents a step forward to the attitude taken by Britain and France a few weeks ago, subject to only two reservations and no other. What stand is Canada going to take? What attitude does Canada take with reference to this matter? Does she intend to join with the United States in support of the action contemplated by the United States? After all, that is a problem that today must be faced; for had the United States taken a similar attitude six months ago or even three months ago, what took place in the Middle East might never have occurred and the unity of the free world might not have been impaired. These things are not dealt with in the speech from the throne. These things deserve amplification and explanation by the Prime Minister on this occasion.

I am now going to refer to one or two other matters and then I am going to leave to my colleagues a discussion of the various subjects inherent in the various paragraphs in the speech from the throne. There are many things with which we agree. We agree as to the need for assistance to the municipalities across this country. Today the municipalities find themselves in a position in which they are unable to carry on with their sources of taxation removed, their responsibilities amplified, their condition aggravated by the fact that in many cities and towns government buildings and government institutions, even under the present legislation, have been almost entirely freed from any responsibility for the payment of taxation. I make a suggestion because of the fact that the municipal field has never been seriously considered. Casual consideration was given to it at the time of the Sirois report. I suggest that a study should be made of the problem of municipal governments in relation to their present financial resources and that it should be instituted by the federal authority in co-operation with the provinces—for the present condition of affairs cannot continue—if the

municipalities, faced as they are with increasing expenditures, are to be enabled to meet the responsibilities that are theirs.

I intend now to make a reference to agriculture, and in particular arising out of the promise made in the speech from the throne to have a committee of the Senate look into the question of submarginal land and the uses of submarginal land. I think the step in this regard is a good one. It is one that is long overdue. We in the western provinces over the years have seen the tremendous contribution that the prairie farm rehabilitation administration has made to the removal of those areas subject to erosion and to the restoration of productivity in areas that under normal circumstances would have become waste land with the expiry of years. I hope that the legislation—I refer to the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act which incidentally is a monument to the foresight of the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett and of his minister of agriculture the Hon. Robert Weir—will be extended in the days ahead to include all areas of Canada and in particular to meet the serious problem that faces the maritime provinces.

I do not want to go into local matters affecting western Canada. They will be dealt with by other members on this side of the house. But I do feel that consideration should be given to a very serious readjustment of the detrimental position in which the United States, by its give away program, has placed the industry of wheat production in Canada, a major industry under government control. What is the government going to do about it? This problem has been up for the last several years. When we first brought this before the house the attitude taken by the government was: Well, just trust us; there is really nothing to worry about; what is being done will not interfere in any way with Canada's markets for its fast accumulating surplus of wheat. Formal protests were made, but merely formal ones. Two of them were made two years ago, and when the question was asked of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe), what reply did you receive, in effect he said that there was no need for a reply. We did not expect a reply.

Well, Mr. Speaker, letters such as that complaining against an illegal interference with the marketing of farm products in another country—action which was in contravention of the agreement under GATT and also of the regulations passed under FAO—should have been made not by pusillanimous and puerile notes but by language that can be understood. I should like the Prime Minister to say when he speaks, when he was recently in the United States and met with the president face to face, did he bring to his attention