The Address-Mr. Bigg

My friends to my left are still fighting the old, class war. One would think there were still money barons around who had all the money while the working people had nothing. The class war is as out of date as the dodo bird. What we need is more effort by all of us, including that great middle-income section of Canadian people who no longer live in poverty, without hope and in despair because of something cooked up by crackpots. This despair is invented for cheap, ambitious, political reasons.

Perhaps it is not popular to ask people, old or young, to go back to work. I suggest we have been spoiled. Many people in Canada take advantage of all levels of government which have been over-paternalistic and have told the people that somehow, by some easy means or socialistic panacea government can make it possible for them to live the good life without effort and without taxation. This is not the case. We must start with another new and dynamic plan. We must not think that any one government has all the answers. We must ask all Canadians to pull up their socks, roll up their shirt sleeves and get back to work.

I have been a labouring man most of my life and I have worked for far below the average national level of income. I know that most of the people of Canada are willing to go to work provided they are given the required leadership. We must stop talking about shorter work weeks and less work, and think of more effective work. We must think more of what we can do and ask ourselves, to paraphrase Mr. John Kennedy: What can we give to Canada?—rather than: What can we expect Canada to give to us?

The government can take the lead in this regard. It should take greater steps toward full use of our natural resources. It is not good enough to wave the anti-United States flag and say that all our troubles are caused by U.S. ownership in this country. Most of us who know anything, know that without United States capital Canada would be about as undeveloped as Baffinland. Many blame the United States for putting money into Canada and say that in this way they have violated our rights. They have done no such thing. They have made one of the best investments in the world—in the present and future development of Canada's natural resources.

• (8:50 p.m.)

I hope that governments at all levels will take a good look at how we can encourage Canadians to participate in the development of their country. They must work harder, use their imagination and self-control. The government should be prepared to encourage the development of Canada and the participation of Canadians in that development by granting sensible tax concessions. There must be a sensible survey of our resources.

We ought to allow our young people to work in the development of our country. Instead of giving them free education, we ought to encourage them to go out during the period they are not attending university and help survey our natural resources. We should pay them well and make sure they are completely free of income tax so long as they are using the money to pay for their own

education. They should try to reverse the present trend instead of looking for help from a socialistic and paternalistic government, if they want to be part of the great Canadian adventure.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bigg: That adventure, I suggest, ought to be embarked upon not only with the vision of the generation that I represent but with an ever greater vision, greater dedication and harder work. The rewards, I suggest, will be very much greater and our young people will be better Canadian citizens for knowing that they worked and paid for the education they received. They ought to know, particularly those of the lunatic fringe who are so anxious to tear down the institutions we have built for them, that our life savings have gone into those institutions; that many of these institutions have not yet been paid for and if they are torn down, neglected or not used the generation now maturing will have to rebuild them and pay for them twice. Not only will they have to pay for the buildings which we have not yet paid for, but they will have the added burden of rebuilding the institutions which they require.

There is no easy or short road to the good life. It is hard to put into words the irresponsibility of those who go among our young people and tell them that, in these times when opportunities were never greater, they are ignored, they are hated, they are misunderstood and that the world owes them a living. We can well imagine how much of the trouble we are presently facing in Canada is the result of this kind of talk. Nothing that my mother, father or grandparents ever said encouraged me to take the law into my own hands or destroy the institutions and the opportunities they worked so hard to provide for me. If that sounds "square", if it sounds unduly right wing, perhaps that is because I am not capable of putting over my story.

I ask those who are more eloquent than I to use their eloquence and to put this very short and simple story over to our young people and to all those who live in Canada and, do not appreciate the good life because they have never known anything else. Yet they are willing to risk throwing away not only the good life but the very freedom that makes the good life possible.

The vision of 1957 and 1958 took into account the fact that Canada is a land of different and varied regions. Those of us who took this vision to heart saw that our merchant navy in the Maritimes lagged far behind the merchant navies of other nations in its ability to carry Canadian products to the world. Because that vision was not pursued with the energy with which it should have been pursued by that and subsequent administrations, Canada has almost no merchant navy. It is not too late to build one. In the Maritimes there still live men who understand how to build ships, how to man ships and how to carry our goods to the nations of the world. Many people there have spent their lives fishing on the sea. Because of shortsighted policies, their fishing grounds are no longer capable of supporting them.