

The Address—Mr. Hansell

elimination of all level crossings within a short period of time is quite impossible. All we can do in the immediate future is to eliminate the more dangerous crossings which exist on the heavily traveled highways and streets. I trust you will bear with me if I give you an example of one of the most dangerous level crossings in the province of Ontario. This crossing is located on the main line of the Canadian National Railways close to the railway station in the town of Brockville. At this point the railway line intersects Perth street, which is the street used by most north and south bound traffic in the town of Brockville. I travel this highway frequently and it is a very rare occasion when I am not halted at this crossing for a considerable length of time. I am not going into too much detail at the moment, but this is the main east and west line of the Canadian National Railways and is consequently heavily traveled. Incidentally, the railway yards are also in that area. A considerable portion of the town is on the north side of the track and it is not unusual to see hundreds of school children waiting to cross at this point. On many occasions the fire department has been delayed at that crossing, with very serious results.

I am sorry the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) is not in his seat at the moment because I believe he is familiar with this particular crossing. If he were here I am sure he would agree with me when I say that this crossing is one of the most dangerous in this province; in fact, I would not be surprised if it were one of the most dangerous in Canada. I have described this particular crossing and tried to tell you of the inconveniences and the hazards that prevail there. I firmly believe that the correction of this situation would be a great relief to the railway men who have the responsibility of handling rail and road traffic at this busy point, and it would add to the safety and convenience of the pedestrians and vehicles using the crossing.

In discussing possible solutions with the local citizens, I have been informed that vigorous complaints have already been lodged with the representatives of the Canadian National Railways. So far this has brought no results. For the present I must be content to let my case rest at this point, but I feel this is an important matter. While I have mentioned a specific case in my own constituency, I would not want anyone in the house to feel I am selfish about this, because I know there are many equally dangerous crossings in other parts of Canada. As I said before, I do not believe all level crossings can be eliminated at once, but I do feel that some of the more dangerous ones, at which acci-

dents have been frequent, should receive some special consideration by the Department of Transport.

It is not my intention to labour this question, but I should like the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) to note that I have not finished with it. I trust that, before the minister's estimates are before the house, he will be able to give me some sort of satisfactory reply as to the possibility of improvement at this particular crossing. I believe it is important to the people in my constituency.

In conclusion, I submit that the immediate necessity is for a revolution in the government's thinking. Whether such apprehension can come to this government, which seems entirely out of touch with the man on the street, is of course another matter. It may be that no redress can be hoped for without a deeper and more drastic change.

Mr. E. G. Hansell (MacLeod): In rising to speak in this debate, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to take the time of the house to analyse all that the speech from the throne contained. I am going to confine myself to one line of thought which I believe is paramount in the world today. I shall of course direct my remarks to the present administration. I recall on one occasion hearing of a young doctor who said: "I do not understand why that patient died; I gave him every kind of medicine I could think of." If the story be true, obviously the young medico was frustrated, and his frustration resulted in his trying anything and everything. As I listen to much that is said in this house, particularly by those whose words should mean something—I mean those who sit in the seats of the mighty, those whom I call head-cheese politicians who sometimes appear, politically, to be neither fish, flesh nor fowl—those in authority over us, I wonder if they are not like the young doctor. To me at least one thing seems to be certain; that is, that they could not have properly diagnosed the ills of the nation or of the world. If those in power had correctly diagnosed the world's headache, they would have discovered something of the enemy behind the scenes.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I shall suggest that no administration of any nation on the face of the earth can adequately solve the problems of that nation if they do not properly search out the enemy behind the scenes. Have our government done that? I think not. Instead, they have assumed that all is well with the human race. And so they strut around with their heads in the clouds, still believing that the moon is made of green cheese; they assume that the Canadian people are what some people term "a bunch of suckers", and proceed to spread it on thick.