

*The Address—Mr. Mazankowski*

heart, as between friends. I cannot help but recall the tone of the task force report on agriculture which consistently referred to the need for agriculture to become more efficient at any price; there is somewhat of a contradiction between the policy spelled out by the Liberals for agriculture in the seventies and the sentiment contained in the Speech from the Throne.

We are told, again, that there is to be more planning; that there are to be more studies undertaken in many new and diverse fields. This has been going on, now, for 24 months. We are told we can expect new forces, some of which we do not yet understand; some of these forces will originate internally, and others will originate externally. We are warned of the consequences of rapid change brought about by advances in technology, and the growing difficulty we are likely to encounter in controlling our destiny. Despite all this advice, we do not see much in the Speech from the Throne which prescribes a remedy for many of the conditions we are likely to face in the forthcoming year, or for that matter, in the forthcoming ten years.

● (12:50 p.m.)

We are told that 80 per cent of our population will reside in a few large metropolitan areas. As one looks at these areas, one can reaffirm one's opinion that this government totally lacks any feeling for our rural areas, the people of which are feeling a growing sense of alienation. We are adding to our problems by making large cities larger, at the expense of our rural areas, the populations of which are declining. We are aware of the quality of life in the cities. Their problems result from pollution, crime and the crowding of many people into a very small area.

We are told that there will be problems relating to housing, pollution and drugs in our cities. In Toronto alone, there is a backlog of something like 2,000 drug cases waiting to be dealt with by the courts. One wonders whether new measures will be introduced to improve the method by which we deal with the matter of drugs. I wonder also whether the minister will soon be able to table information relating to the records of cases involving drugs so that we may ascertain whether there is any disparity between sentences.

I do not believe there is a Canadian in this country today who is unaware of the problems outlined in the Speech from the Throne and who is not willing to sacrifice something in order that we may overcome the problems which face us in the 1970's. What I say we need is a co-ordinated attack on our problems, under proper leadership. Certainly, the setting up of a ministry of urban affairs and a ministry pertaining to environmental control is a start and is, I think, commendable. At the same time it is clear that appropriate policies and programs are essential if those ministries are to be effective. What we must ask ourselves is, why has all this taken so long? Perhaps the government will again use the constitution as a scapegoat. After hearing this government constantly weaseling out of its responsibilities by using the constitu-

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tion as an excuse, one wonders how this country managed to survive for 103 years.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The point is that the constitution is as good as the participants within it, and if co-operation and co-ordination to achieve a goal or overcome a problem cannot take place within the present framework, we are hardly likely ever to arrive at a way of achieving a satisfactory amending process.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I am referring to a process under which the constitution will be all things to all participants.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The previous Throne Speech referred to the fact that something like one million new housing starts would take place in the next five years. There was particular emphasis on low cost housing, social progress and urban employment opportunities. The present Speech from the Throne makes no mention of this goal. One can only assume that the ministry of housing and urban affairs will accomplish these goals as the result of co-operation with the provinces and municipalities. I say that this is the logical and sensible approach. This was the main theme and essence of the Task Force Report on Housing. Why have we had to wait for two years for its implementation?

The matter of pollution and the preservation of our environment quite rightly is an issue which must be attacked by all levels of government and by all sectors of society, by the young and the old, the rich and the poor. I believe that all Canadians will be prepared to work together in a planned and effective approach in overcoming this most threatening problem if they are given adequate leadership. As I said before, I certainly welcome the intention of the government to establish a department concerned with our environment. I hope that the many young people who have corresponded with their elected representatives throughout the past year, and expressed their deep concern over matters relating to pollution and the disturbance of our ecology, will have their fears allayed somewhat by proposals such as those contained in the speech. We have received literally hundreds of letters from young people drawing to our attention their concern over the destruction of our environment and the disturbance of our ecology. I believe that all Canadians will be compelled to share in this exercise if we are to preserve this great land for future generations.

Specifically, I hope that young people will engage in more positive methods of assistance instead of merely criticizing. I hope that the minister will display the initiative and ingenuity to develop programs that will harness the energies of these young people, which can be used in