

The stated objectives of the Government in its Throne Speech are anything but ordinary. The twin goals are nothing less than international peace abroad and a national sense of well-being at home. The reason that those goals will not be achieved by this Government has nothing to do with the Opposition, with the intractability of the economy or, in the final analysis, with the people of Canada. In my judgment, it has everything to do with the Liberal Government's failure to see that in order to mobilize people and achieve practical results with such significant purposes as were stated in the Speech from the Throne, what is required is that the Government itself demonstrate through its own actions and legislation a commitment to the principle of fairness.

The Government must set by example a moral goal sufficient to the task of mobilizing men and women to achieve these very practical and important objectives of international peace and tranquility at home. Only such government fairness can produce the equivalent commitment in the population at large to work to achieve these ends. Without government programs and without legislation based upon fairness, the practical failure of the Government to achieve its goals is almost a forgone conclusion.

I would like to put my specific criticisms of the Government's activity or inactivity in the context of what Canada is now facing. We all know that during the past two years, for domestic and international reasons, we have had a troubled land. Farmers have been unhappy. Women who were finally beginning to make progress in the past decades have suddenly during the last two years been curtailed in the improvement of their state. Miners, loggers in British Columbia and industrial workers all over Canada have been affected. There has in short been, as everyone knows, difficulty in our land. I need quote no statistics to show this because that would be pretty banal at this point in time after the debate which has gone on in the past two years. That is part of the problem the Throne Speech ought to have been trying to address if it wanted to achieve a sense of inner tranquility and excitement among the people of our land.

During the same period of time abroad, as everyone has noted and as the Prime Minister has spoken of, there has been an intensification of the nuclear arms race between the superpowers, a breaking down of *détente* and a spreading of nuclear weapons to other nations that had not before possessed them.

I have an argument I would like to make, Mr. Speaker, and I say this with complete and utter sincerity. I am quite prepared to acknowledge that I may be wrong. As much as anyone else in the House, I am quite fallible, but perhaps I am not as fallible as the Government. It has a lot to be fallible about. However, I would like to say that the argument I will make is one in which I deeply believe. I believe that the failure of the Throne Speech is not in the stating of these goals to deal with a very troubled world indeed on the one hand and to deal with a very troubled nation indeed on the other. Those are goals that are shared by all of us in the House, I believe, as well as by the people in our land and in other lands. The failure of the Throne Speech really rests upon the failure of

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the Government itself to mobilize the kind of commitment that is necessary in our nation and among other nations to implement and achieve those goals. That failure rests upon the Government's own incapacity to introduce, by past action or present commitment, legislation which includes the notion of fairness. It is my view that the absence of this fairness, both in terms of domestic goals and, as I shall try to indicate, in terms of international goals, will lead to a failure by the Government to achieve either of these goals.

Instead of charting a new course based upon fairness, the realism that is required, the Throne Speech and the Government's action reveal Liberal Members' true historical failures in our time and, regardless of what the Prime Minister has just said, their basic commitment to the status quo. Earlier we heard the Prime Minister defending past federal accomplishments of the Liberal Party. I am prepared to concede those past accomplishments even if I do say at the same time that I cannot think of one of those accomplishments which was not first argued for either by the CCF or the NDP. However, I did not hear the Prime Minister, when referring to the domestic domain, argue for a single new, innovative idea either in terms of the economy or in terms of social policy. I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that the Liberal Party, now perhaps as never before, is committed to the status quo. That is the one failure which I believe is a serious one. Another failure—and I regret to say this—is the almost total feeling of cynicism about federal politics which I believe has been produced by the Liberal Government.

● (1530)

I would now like to turn to the domestic policy implication of the Speech from the Throne and put what I have just said in general terms into context, to explain what I mean by applying it to some of the specific objectives which are alluded to in the Throne Speech itself. What do we have on medicare? I will be brief on the point because we have already had in the House some discussion on medicare. We have a Government which has said, "Yes, we want to get rid of extra billing, user fees and we want to restore the universal system of medicare". We have a Government which has talked about this not only all fall and all summer, but since last spring. If it really wanted to act on medicare, why did it not bring in a Bill last year? Why is it waiting for an election year? I believe such cynicism about the Government's commitment to that idea is a legitimate reaction by those who are sensitive to the issue and feel deeply about it. At the same time, the Government is unprepared to indicate it is willing to provide more money. As I indicated, as federal politicians we in the New Democratic Party want to see the system not only maintained and improved, but we also say that if that takes more taxes, we are prepared to support that principle. The Liberal Party, in our view, is using the issue in a blatantly cynical way. It refuses to commit money which is needed. And as recently as the Throne Speech, in the past 48 hours, it plays its numbers game. Instead of frankly stating that because of a federal-provincial arrangement there is going to be \$500 million more going to the provinces, it tries to pass off before the television cameras on Throne Speech day the