

seizures for 1985 shows an increase in the number of cocaine and heroin seizures and also in the quantity of those drugs that were intercepted, but heroin accounts for the major part of the increase. I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that no one can remain indifferent in the face of those figures. I am therefore convinced the measures the Government will be proposing to control hard drug abuse will meet with unanimous approval.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have had an opportunity to comment on some aspects of the Throne Speech that deal more specially with social justice. That Speech assures the Canadian people of our constant commitment to improve their well-being. Under the guidance and leadership of this Progressive Conservative Government, our country will experience physical, moral, intellectual and cultural growth. Many are the fields of interest in which Canadian men and women can come forward with new ideas to strengthen our development, in an atmosphere of peace and serenity. That progress, Mr. Speaker, is further evidence of the qualities of our Canadian people and their firm intention to participate fully in the development and strengthening of the nation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions, comments. Debate. The Hon. Member for Prince Albert.

• (1520)

[English]

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak about the Speech from the Throne. We have had this particular majority Government for two years and it is now, to some extent, taking on the appearance of its predecessor. Members opposite, while they may have the majority of seats in this House, should remember that only 50 per cent of the people voted for them and a good portion of that vote has crumbled away. The arrogance of the majority is showing through more and more. The Government needs to remember that the essence of democracy is the consent of the governed. If you do not have that consent, your mandate is tentative. After two years, I suggest that the mandate of this Government is tentative only. It no longer has a majority of the voters supporting it.

Given the need to do something about that crumbling mandate, the Government brought forward the Speech from the Throne. It was, I suppose, an attempt by the Government to put a new mask on an old face. The Speech from the Throne was supposed to be the manifestation of that new face which it hoped the people of the country would recognize. Unfortunately, its mask is a little thin and in the short time since prorogation and the Speech from the Throne, it appears that the old face is increasingly showing through. Ordinary Canadians recognize the old face of the Government as that of a government which concerns itself particularly with the protection of the privileged in every way possible.

When we consider the past two-year record of the Government, we think of patronage appointments, support of corporate power in the banks and of industrial giants, attacks

on the universality of our social structure, bail-outs of industrial and financial institutions. It has been a Government that gave the edge to the privileged while the underprivileged were expected to make their own way.

It is very interesting to note that even in its attempt to show a new face in the Speech from the Throne, many of the items that were brought forward in this Speech from the Throne can be directly related to the 1984 Speech from the Throne.

• (1530)

Let me give a few examples, of which there are many. In 1984 the Government suggested that it needed to defend and strengthen the Canadian family. In the two years since it took office it slashed the family allowance and made a strong attempt to change pensions. It has consistently attacked universality. The Government has done many things to weaken the family structure, but in the current Speech from the Throne it stated that the Canadian family is the cornerstone which the Government will support and strengthen. The Throne Speech indicates it will go on strengthening the Canadian family, yet for two years the Government attempted to weaken it.

In the 1984 Speech from the Throne, the Government said it would make the tax system simpler and fairer. Direct taxes have trebled since then and the income tax structure has been made much more complex in the last two years with the addition of more loopholes for the privileged so that they may make more money and pay less taxes. In 1986, the Government again claims that it will make the tax system simpler and more comprehensive.

In the 1984 Speech from the Throne, the Government said that accessible and affordable child care was needed. It did nothing except to establish Study No. 3, which was supposed to make recommendations about what the Government should do in this particular area. In its 1986 Speech from the Throne, the Government said that adequate quality must be made available in child care.

In 1984, the Government said in its Speech from the Throne that legislation to control pornography will be brought forward. While the Government introduced such legislation, it was almost a bust and created a great deal of concern. In its 1986 Speech from the Throne, the Government suggests that it will take effective action, and let us hope that it does.

In 1984, the Government stated that the Constitution would be incomplete without Quebec. In its 1986 Speech from the Throne, the Government stated it would do its utmost to make Quebec a full partner in the Constitution.

I believe these examples suggest that the Government's old face has not been entirely covered and shows through even in the wording in the Speech from the Throne.

Furthermore, the Speech from the Throne illustrates the Government's propensity to conduct studies. For instance, it will study agriculture at the economic summit and GATT talks. It will conduct a national forum on education, an