

The Address—Mr. Stanfield

and methodically through the agenda of the last parliament, and that Canada will be immune from the forces of dissent and challenge that have erupted everywhere else in the world? There is not a chance. These forces are born out of disillusionment and frustration, and disillusionment and frustration will soon set in in this country unless the government exerts itself to honour the expectations it aroused.

The most serious failure of the Speech from the Throne is the simple failure of commitment. This is not merely a dry document; it is almost inhumane. A stranger reading the throne speech would conclude that we are a country with few problems and not one bit of passion, a country whose most serious business is to listen to lectures about the nature of justice. Men were striving for justice in society long before this government discovered its mission and they will be striving for justice long after this government is gone and forgotten. But the process will not be advanced if we debase the goal of justice by making it an empty promise or an abstract slogan.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Stanfield: It will not be advanced by a government which constructs plans and ignores people, nor by a government which, faced with the urgent priorities of poverty and unemployment, lagging growth and serious restraints, chooses to confine itself principally to legal conceptions and the inadequate priorities of the past.

The government warns us in tones of piety that there are no simple solutions. That is not news to anyone on this side of the house. It was not this party which trafficked in the illusion of simple solutions. But if solutions are not simple, they are at least possible. If they cannot be achieved immediately, and often they cannot, they can at least be begun. And there has been no beginning in the Speech from the Throne.

It is bad enough that the first Speech from the Throne tells us nothing of the plans of the government to meet the urgent and immediate problems of the country. What is worse is that we still know nothing of the long term plans of the government. Canadians do not know what the government plans to do with Canada. The ministers had a chance to state their plans for Canada during the election campaign and they chose not to. They had an obligation to do so in the throne speech and again they have refused. On that record

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it is fair to conclude that they have no plans, they have no commitments; they are simply not prepared to provide the leadership this country needs and wants.

We are at the beginning of a new parliament and at the beginning of what could still become a new era in Canada. During the celebrations last year this country became alive again and aware of its potential. There was everywhere the sense that Canada could become a nation of excitement and of excellence. We all knew it would not be easy but we also knew that fortune had been good to us. We are a nation unlike any other in the world, rich enough in wealth and opportunity to make the promise of equality come true and rich enough in cultures and in learning to set a high example for the world. There was a sense that we were a nation whose time had come. It was in such a spirit that we entered the election from which this parliament has come. Frequently in that campaign I urged Canadians to elect a government which would be worthy of this country. It is a personal tribute to the Prime Minister that many Canadians believed they had elected such a government. It is a matter of profound regret that default should be so immediate and so grievous. It is for this reason that I move, seconded by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), the following amendment to the address:

But we respectfully regret that Your Excellency's advisers have refused to recognize or respond to Canada's current and urgent economic and social problems; and have failed to provide parliament with an agenda of priorities to define and implement the "Just Society".

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin my remarks by paying tribute to my distinguished predecessor, Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson. If he had simply withdrawn to a well earned retirement, I would have wanted to say a few words about the long years of service which he devoted to the international community, to his country and to this house and about the many achievements which history will record under his name. How much more does he deserve our respect and gratitude for continuing his service to mankind on a truly global scale. All of us in this house who have known and worked with Mr. Pearson are aware of his deep interest in what may be the most important issue of our age—the division of the world into rich nations and poor. We can share Mr. Pearson's evident pleasure that as leader of a special task force for the World Bank he has found a way to