

*The Address—Mr. Baldwin*

For the rest of my time, Mr. Speaker, I want to discuss two statements contained in the speech from the throne which are worthy of consideration, and in fact should be enshrined in the annals of this house. The first one is this:

If the century that has passed can be characterized by the development of the resources of our land, it is likely that the century to come must be marked by an increasing concentration upon the development of the resources of the mind and the spirit...

In one form or another science is already reaching into the very heart of the community to transform the lives of each of us. It is essential that the control and development of our environment keeps apace. We have built towns and cities, canals and railroads, highways and other great works of construction at an unprecedented pace. But we have too often in the past made beauty the poor sister of material gain and careless workmanship the price of easy profit. We must lose no more time in making ugliness in our environment as unwelcome as financial losses in our balance sheets.

And so on ad nauseam. If I were allowed to wear a hat in this house, I would take it off and bow three times at those beautiful words, words with which we must all agree but which have no place within the four corners of the speech from the throne which the government gave to His Excellency to read. The speech from the throne, as I construe it, ought to be a document envisaging a legislative program that this parliament will be asked to deal with in the course of the session to come. I can only surmise that somehow these fine words were misplaced and were probably intended to be used by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) at some ceremony in the future when he would be receiving an honorary degree at a university and have by error found their way into the speech from the throne. The fact is that these statements and others like them, and the whole tone and content of the speech from the throne, are an indication that this government has now come into the open to indicate its determination to involve itself directly and substantially in all aspects of human life. Its actions in the past and this speech from the throne in the present is a periscope to look ahead into the future.

I recognize that governments must be strong and powerful within the limits of their authority; they must be armed with the right to act swiftly. But the point I wish to make is that this must always go hand in hand with the necessity of making a government accountable, and answerable, and if it is the intention of this government, as appears certain, more and more to take over the authority to tell

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people what to do, how to do it and when to do it in every field of human activity, then some way must be found to make them responsible.

Governments are becoming increasingly activist; they are moving into all areas of human activity. They act as transfer agents to redistribute wealth. They invade our privacy. There is not one area of human relations where this government is not intending to move. In short, they propose to become all-powerful and all-encompassing. This might be all very well if wisdom, intelligence, moderation and understanding were present to modify and mould their decisions. But governments are in the grip of and held firm by ordinary human beings. All too often politicians are looking to the next election, civil servants are engaged in empire building and struggling for prestige and promotion, pressure groups are seeking special privileges, there are even and a few purveyors of corruption. They are no worse, but certainly no better, than the rest of us ordinary people.

The laws that the government does pass are increasingly restrictive, curtailing and intruding upon our lives; and this means more than the laws we see on the statute books. Hardly a bill is brought into the house today that does not give to the executive uncontrolled discretion to legislate in secret by order in council or ministerial regulation. They even demand that we delegate this right to boards and tribunals. In this respect, unlike most other democratic countries, this backward and reactionary government has so far refused to establish machinery to permit this type of delegated authority to be examined and scrutinized under formal procedures.

Some years ago when we were debating the report of the first committee on procedure I asked the Prime Minister whether he was prepared to establish a committee to examine the delegating of authority. At that time he said he would consider the question and went on to say that the government was considering appointing an ombudsman. He said this consideration was to continue. It is still continuing. The time has come when members of this house must tell the government to do something about it. I hope that through the medium of the procedures committee some improvement may be brought about in this regard, because there must be some reform to compel the ever-growing power of the executive to be answerable and responsive in these matters.

The speech from the throne makes special reference to parliamentary reform, and I am