

*The Address—Mr. Cook*

an attempt to fool all of the people all of the time, but it does not work.

It would have been more realistic if the Governor General, when introducing the Throne Speech, had said that since the Government can remain in power for a year at most, even though its mandate ends on February 18, 1984, by tradition, it is proposing these last few measures which it will attempt to achieve. But the Government did not do that. It brought in a Throne Speech which contained ten years of possible legislation. As one of the members of the press gallery stated, after hearing the Throne Speech, "If dogs and cats had a vote, there would have been something in there for the dogs and cats as well".

We all realize that a throne is basically nothing more than ministerial ventriloquism. If one were to read earlier Throne Speeches to see the promises, undertakings and philosophies contained therein and then review them a few years later, it would be found that very few of those goals were achieved.

A Throne Speech is essentially a futile exercise. In my view, spending eight days debating the Throne Speech in the House of Commons is a waste of the taxpayers' dollars and a waste of the time of the House of Commons, which could be used for better purposes in terms of accomplishing something for Canadians.

At present we have at least seven reports on parliamentary reform. I doubt that any of these reports addresses the concept of an eight day Throne Speech debate. The reason is that these eight days of debate provide an opportunity for many back-bench Members to make speeches and provide material for their householders. I suggest that the various speeches could be called "hyperbole for householders". That is the effect of these eight days of debate. I find that offensive as well.

I came here to work for the people of North Vancouver-Burnaby. I do the best I can. I did not come here to listen to self-serving, self-satisfying and self-deceiving members of the Government Party attempting to justify the unjustifiable. I came here to help do something for the country.

I suggest that anyone who watches the House of Commons debates regularly on television would find, by this time, such a Throne Speech debate quite unacceptable. In such a debate the rule of relevancy disappears entirely. There has been very little relevancy to the Throne Speech in most of the speeches from all sides during the eight-day period. I also find that rather unfortunate. A debate in the House should be relevant to the subject. The Throne Speech is not. Soon we will spend another six days doing exactly the same thing in the budget debate where the rule of relevancy will be totally ignored by practically every speaker on every side. Do not misunderstand me, Mr. Speaker. I do not criticize only the Government for this. I criticize all Members of the House of Commons, including myself. Surely to goodness, with the intelligence on all sides of the House something could be done where we do not waste half a month on this kind of useless exercise. Unfortunately, much as I would like Members on the Government side to hear what is said by the Opposition, I would also like them to consider it carefully. When things are presented

to the Government that make sense, have the opposition be given credit for it and see that what it is done for the benefit of the Canadian people. But that never takes place. I honestly have yet to find an occasion when any speech delivered in this House of Commons has had any effect on the Government side at all, or frankly has been listened to with any degree of respect or silence. A little heckling is in order. That merely adds to the sparkle, the salt and pepper of a speech. But not to listen, not to hear, not to consider because the speech did not come from the Government benches, is a terrible offence to the Canadian people who sent us here and whom all of us collectively represent.

● (1740)

I will take the last two minutes to point out a couple of things I totally deplore which are relevant to the discussion on the Throne Speech. The Throne Speech is one of the most cynical things I have ever seen, totally cynical.

We have 1.5 million Canadians out of work, a 50 per cent increase since the Government took office four years ago. There are over 500,000 Canadian youths unemployed and with no hope of employment. In British Columbia the unemployment rate today is over 14 per cent. Our national unemployment rate, which is perhaps the severest indictment of all against this particular Government, will remain at over 12 per cent this year. Over 600,000 Canadians, 65 years of age or older, are living in poverty. A Government that can stay in office and can go past its four-year mandate with those kinds of statistics facing it is not a Government that deserves to remain in office. It is not a Government that deserves to have the right to make laws and to operate this country. I only hope the Canadian people realize just how miserable, sad, bad and devoid of ideas this Government is, as those of us here who have to work opposite know.

Time is running out and I say only to the Canadian people who may have followed this debate that if this does not give them proof enough why these rascals should be thrown out, then perhaps people do deserve the Government they get, but nobody deserves this present Government.

May I call it 5.45 p.m., Mr. Speaker?

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

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** It being 5.45 p.m., it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 42(5), to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith the question necessary to dispose of the main motion.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Is it carried?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Mr. Forrestall:** On division.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Carried on division.