

The Address—Mr. Hees

studied in all parts of the country. It represents a great deal of work, both on the part of the members of the commission and also by those who submitted briefs and who appeared before the commission. The report gives us an opportunity to have a look into what we might expect to see happen here in Canada during the next 25 years.

The main purpose of the government in setting up this commission and in having it make its report just before a general election is to attempt to create in the minds of the public the idea that all the good things which the report forecasts will take place in the next 25 years, and will take place only if this government is returned to office.

Mr. Lesage: It is the only way.

Mr. Hees: The report has been made close enough to the general election with the purpose in mind that the government can slip and slide around the tricky questions, and thus avoid answering whether it intends to implement any of the proposals contained in the report. Instead it can simply indicate during the election campaign that if the Liberal government is returned to office all of these things, and I mean all of them, will come to pass.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this report is mainly political. It is, in short terms, election bait. It is a desperate attempt on the part of the government to cover up the many things which the government knows it should have done and has not done, by dangling before the eyes of the voting public the attractive vision of things which can be expected to come to pass some time in the next 25 years. It is going to be put to the voting public by liberal speakers on platforms from one end of this country to the other that all they have to do is vote Liberal, reelect this government, and these things will be done immediately.

I think, however, Mr. Speaker, that the voting public has become wise to the Liberal techniques. They know that what they are going to hear is nothing but the usual tripe, and that there is no basis in fact for what they are going to be told. The Liberal party will find in the next election that this form of approach falls like a lead balloon.

Now, of course, Mr. Speaker, anything that is detrimental to the government, such as its tight money policy, has been conveniently left out of this report. The fact that this policy is hamstringing the construction industry and denying to young married couples the homes they so desperately need in which to bring up their families, has been conveniently forgotten. There is also no mention of the fact that a great deal of unemployment and

many bankruptcies have been caused by this stupid policy which the government has insisted on pursuing.

Now, of course, it is well known that the chairman, Mr. Gordon, will soon be rewarded for the political chore which he has performed so well by being invited into the cabinet. Very soon we can expect him to take his place beside the other members of the cabinet as the new minister of defence production. The plan, of course, is that he will soon take over the complete portfolio of the present Minister of Trade and Commerce, and that is the bait that was used. It is too bad; I am sorry his term of office will be cut so short, because it is pretty well recognized by those who observe political matters closely that the term of office of this government will end on June 17 next.

Mr. Bennett: Did you see the Gallup poll?

Mr. Hees: One thing this report does tell us is that during the next 25 years the consumption of power in this country will increase by three times. Because this government has no power or energy policy, this report has been very careful not to make any embarrassing suggestions of a specific kind as to what the government could and should do in order to assist the provinces develop this greatly enlarged quantity of power that will be needed. Since there is also no mention of any proposed legislation in the speech from the throne which will assist the provinces to develop power and natural resources within their borders, we must expect for the next few months a continuation of the government's do nothing, hope and grope policy in this regard.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you might well ask at this point, what should the government do? In New Brunswick it should start immediately—it should have started a long time ago—to assist Premier Hugh John Flemming to develop the half million potential horsepower on the Saint John river by backing his power development bonds and enabling him to obtain the money which he needs at a considerably lower rate of interest.

Mr. Lesage: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Hees: Yes.

Mr. Lesage: Is the hon. member aware that we are still waiting for the data on the possible storage on the Tobique river that we were promised by the government of New Brunswick some months ago in order to be in a position to make a decision on the request of that government?

[Mr. Hees.]