

them, in larger numbers perhaps in samples from the Back and the Thousand Island rivers.

A doctor I met and to whom I asked about the results of those tests told me that the thyphoid epidemic of five years ago had probably been caused by pollution in the Back river near St. François de Salles, Saint-Vincent, Montreal North, La Visitation and Ahuntsic. Samples were sent from all over.

Mr. Speaker, I insisted on speaking of dredging the Back and the Thousand Island rivers because the general policy of the government against pollution—and I would like this to be well understood once again—is in the interest of all citizens. I am convinced that my appeal will not go unheard.

For some time now, along with my colleagues the hon. members for Laval (Mr. Roy), for Duvernay (Mr. Kierans), for Terrebonne (Mr. Comtois), and others, I have been meeting with the responsible ministers. We are now doing a more thorough study of this problem. Engineers have told us what the situation is and we are now looking forward to the enactment of more comprehensive legislation on pollution, in the best interests of the Canadian people.

Mr. Speaker, before resuming my seat, I would not forgive myself if I failed to do what all the previous speakers have done, namely congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne (Mr. Trudel and Mr. Douglas (Assiniboia)). They proved worthy of the confidence of their constituents, and I am sure that after hearing them they had faith in their future in Parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like at the outset to congratulate very sincerely the Deputy Speaker, who will, I am sure, discharge his duties with dignity, as he enjoys the full confidence of all members.

I should like to congratulate also the movers of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne (Mr. Trudel and Mr. Douglas (Assiniboia)). They fulfilled their obligation admirably. In fact, it was normal in their case to put emphasis on the government's accomplishments.

I should like to congratulate also in a special way the previous speaker, who just made a magnificent speech, where he pointed out, among other things, that the human being had once again been sacrificed to save the dollar. Alleging inflation the government has allowed the pollution problem to get worse. Like the hon. member I think it is unfortunate that such conditions should continue and I heartily support his claims so that we may take as soon as possible the necessary steps to check that national plague.

The Speech from the Throne is the usual statement of the policy which the government intends to follow and of the pieces of legislation it expects Parliament to pass. This year's speech is no exception to the rule: it abounds in high-sounding sentences which are pleasant to ear and bring hope, but it makes no mention at all of the means the government will take to establish a truly just society.

The Address—Mr. A. Lambert

However, the Speech from the Throne refers to the generation gap in the following terms:

Because of the clash between these new values and the old, because of the quest by the young and the disillusioned for some resolution of attitudes, we live in a period of tenseness and unease. It is an age frequented by violence as desperate men seek ill defined goals; an age of frustrations as gentle men question impatiently old assumptions.

This last sentence is quite significant. Indeed this age of ours affords us perhaps a last chance to choose our destiny instead of submitting to it. But that is only possible on one condition, that man be not the slave of progress, but rather its master. And to that end, Mr. Speaker, it is essential that the government have the courage to make the financial reforms required to put our monetary system at the service of the people, when at this moment, we are its slaves.

Yet, the government seems aware of that situation. It also seems to understand that change is the most pressing reality, since it states:

The decade of the seventies extends beyond our present vision, yet the momentum of change is already so overwhelming that man can no longer afford the luxury of reacting to events. He must anticipate and plan. He must accept that contentment and indifference are illusory; that the most dramatic reality is change; that there is more need than ever before to preserve as constant values truth, honesty, excellence and relevance; that a society which is not inspired by love and compassion is not worthy of the name.

Mr. Speaker, the economic dictatorship often denounced over 30 years ago by politicians such as René Chalout and Dr. Philippe Hamel, continued to reign supreme in Canada and mainly in Quebec, regardless of the government in power. The fundamental rights of the individual are not respected in spite of the extraordinary progress accomplished in the field of science and productivity. In 1970, sick people unable to make a living are still facing daily difficulties because of a lack of income that would allow them to meet their basic needs. There still are many destitute people who get a small allowance of \$30 to \$50 a month and this, in a country as rich as Canada. In some cases, and there are unfortunately too many, repeated inquiries are made, procedures are delayed while those in need are urged to be patient, and soon. But, at the bottom of their heart they feel abandoned and refuse to believe in the advantages that society can bring them. The administration is too slow. No account is taken of the needs and of the income of those people. We quite often receive complaints in this connection and when I happen to follow them up, I find, unfortunately, that the person who complains is justified in doing so. In that regard, I think it can be recognized that the reports of the Senate committee now making and inquiry across the country are not exaggerated and that the members are making recommendations likely to correct the situation.

● (4:30 p.m.)

Economic dictatorship was denounced by the great Pope Pius XI in his 1931 encyclical on economic and social problems, in the strong following words:

In the first place, it is obvious that not only is wealth concentrated in our times but an immense power and despotic eco-