

*The Address—Mr. J. A. Ross*

As I say, I am sure that my hon. friend would have found endorsement of his statement as to the generosity of the Minister of Justice. I wonder about the people in our country, especially those in our high schools, our universities and churches. They are endeavouring to teach our young people respect for the law of the land. I can well remember my teachings and that previously I had never known of a minister of justice, irrespective of what political affiliation he may have had, who was not possessed of character and high principles or who could be pushed around.

There should be respect for our parliamentary institutions. That respect should be instilled very strongly in the minds of the younger people of this nation. Yet those young people are today openly saying that this session of parliament has opened with the same minister at the head of that great Department of Justice for which we have had such great respect, and that is considered to be a direct reflection on the Prime Minister of this nation who is responsible for his appointment. I feel keenly about this. I do not think it matters whether certain ministers on the front benches are here, individually, or whether I am here, but I am concerned about the example being set before the rising generation, especially when they are faced with the difficulties they have to contend with in growing up to manhood and womanhood.

I have been amazed at the lighthearted attitude of the Minister of Justice toward such a serious matter as this. We held him in deep respect when he was in Manitoba. I regret his attitude toward such a serious matter and the example he has set as head of this important department to the young Canadian citizens who are growing up.

In conclusion I want to urge as strongly as I can upon the government that as agriculture is the basic industry of all national progress upon which all other industries in Canada must build, the same basis of income tax exemption should be allowed to the Canadian farmer for building, equipment or plant expansion during 1949 or 1950 as has been allowed to industry. Respectable floor price legislation should be provided immediately for agricultural products. The policy for the handling and disposal of the 1950 wheat crop should be made known before the Easter recess so that our farmers may have this information before seeding time.

I urge that the Crowsnest pass freight agreement be left on the statute books and be not placed in the hands of the transport commission. I urge that provision be made for the granting of federal aid to education. This is most essential, as has been pointed

[Mr. Ross (Souris).]

out by members on all sides of the house, as in different parts of the country there is great inequality in the opportunities afforded for education. There is nothing more important in this nation today than education.

I urge that the federal properties grants in lieu of local taxes scheme be reconsidered and a more equitable and reasonable plan worked out and offered to the municipalities. I urge that the committee of the House of Commons on veterans' affairs be set up and that when the consolidation measure in connection with national defence is introduced it be referred to this committee for consideration. I urge that the elections act be amended and provision made for the use of the transferable vote.

I shall support the amendment moved by my leader and seconded by the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon), which reads:

That the following words be added to the said address:

"We respectfully submit to Your Excellency that Your Excellency's advisers have:

(1) failed to take adequate measures to preserve and expand markets for Canada's surplus products of farm, forest, sea and mine, and to deal with the problems of increasing unemployment and reduced income to Canadian farmers and other producers; and

(2) failed to take steps to inaugurate a national contributory system of old age pensions without a means test; and

(3) deliberately violated a law of this parliament by illegally suppressing the report of the commissioner under the Combines Investigation Act on the flour milling industry for ten months, including the period of the recent general election campaign, and denied to parliament information essential to the performance of its duty and the maintenance of responsible government; and

(4) failed to take adequate measures to curb espionage and other harmful activities of communists in Canada.

For these and other reasons we respectfully submit that Your Excellency's advisers are not entitled to the confidence of this house."

(Translation):

**Mr. Pierre Gauthier (Porineuf):** Mr. Speaker, it is always comforting to note that in the House of Commons we can use either of the two languages said to be official in Canada and speak in our mother tongue or in the language which is said to be that of the majority. We wish Canada to become a bilingual country and I think that where there is a will there is a way. Moreover, the example set in this house should spread throughout the country. The friendly tussles of days gone by have ended. This means that Canada, with its religious and political freedom and its dual culture can, nay should, become one of the great countries of the world.

It is customary, and the tradition is commendable, to congratulate the mover and