

*The Address—Mr. Harkness*

**Mr. D. S. Harkness (Calgary East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to join with other members who have taken part in this debate today in congratulating the mover (Mr. Cauchon) and seconder (Mr. Simmons) of the address. They both made fine impressions. I should like also to express my own happiness at the rapid recovery of His Majesty from the operation he had to undergo, as well as the pleasure I experienced in meeting the Princess and the Duke of Edinburgh during their visit here. I know many millions of Canadians will have that pleasure before the tour is completed.

Before mentioning some matters upon which many members will not be in entire agreement with me I should like to make a suggestion on which I think there will be complete agreement by all those in this chamber. As probably many hon. members know, the first battalion of the P.P.C.L.I. has been stationed in Calgary since the last war. During the last two or three weeks they left for Korea to relieve the second battalion of that famous regiment. The second battalion has made a record of achievement in Korea of which we can all be proud. It is a record which I am sure the first battalion will maintain and embellish. The commanding officer of the first battalion, Lieut. Col. Norman Wilson-Smith, saw me two or three days before he left for Korea and asked me about the procedure in securing *Hansard*, the price of a subscription, and so forth. He said he wanted it for use in N.C.O. schools in connection with the preparation of talks which are given to the men. I was pleased to tell him that I would be delighted to send it to him. However, my suggestion is that Mr. Speaker, representing all of us—which he always does in such a distinguished manner—arrange for copies of *Hansard* to be sent to all the army, air force and naval units which are posted overseas. Apparently some units desire to have copies.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** I shall send them all my speeches.

**Mr. Harkness:** I do not think these people would read the hon. member's speeches in *Hansard*, but apparently they do wish to read the speeches of some hon. members. I hope that suggestion might be acted upon in the near future.

Undoubtedly the matter which has been uppermost in the minds of the Canadian people has been the cost of living. This is illustrated by the results of recent public opinion polls. These polls corroborate the personal experience of every member in this house. It is the question that everyone

brings up, and about which everyone complains. About six months ago the public opinions polls showed that the threat of Russia and the measures forced upon us to counter that threat were the greatest worries of our people. The Russian menace, Mr. Speaker, is still the most dangerous we have to face. To the extent that inflation and rising living costs have caused people to forget that fact, in my opinion the Russians have gained a victory.

We need to constantly keep in mind that Russia and her satellites constitute the number one danger to our national existence, our free political institutions and our economic system. The number two danger, however, is undoubtedly inflation and the suffering and chaos it can produce if allowed to run wild. The difficulties and actual suffering it has already caused for many people are all too apparent. There is an old saying that everyone talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it. This saying could apply equally as well to inflation and rising living costs in Canada today. So far as most of our people are concerned, there is nothing constructive they can do about it. So far as the government is concerned, it has been singularly lethargic and inept in the few doubtful steps it has taken to try to curb inflation.

The credit restrictions have had, as their most apparent effect, a drastic reduction in the amount of housing constructed and the creation of what the government calls "pockets of unemployment". Apparently the government proposes to deal with these pockets of unemployment by shipping the unemployed workers across to the United States or making it easy for them to go to that country. Surely, Mr. Speaker, that is a most shortsighted policy, since the government itself has stated repeatedly that this country's greatest need is more people. This is being done at a time when we have an expanded and assisted immigration program. This does not make sense.

The other chief measure the government took was to increase the sales and special excise taxes at the last session of parliament. They have had the inevitable effect of forcing up the prices of all goods to which they apply; and they are, of course, the majority of those we have to buy. In his speech this afternoon the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) attempted to show that prices are higher in the United States than in Canada. He said: "Apart from all cost of living indexes and everything, that is what I actually found". I was glad to hear that he had been making some personal investigations as to the cost of