

*The Address—Mr. Lambert*

the last session on the defence committee. We all know what will be the nature of his duties as Minister of Forestry and I am sure he will acquit himself well in this regard. However, in regard to the yet undefined portion of his responsibilities, which will be indicated in some future legislation at some future date, we must make some reservations. It is true there is an indication that the administration of ARDA and the utilization of land resources will come under his responsibility. However, if these particular duties are to be the answer to the promise, not kept, revoked, dropped or whatever you want to call it, of the appointment of a minister of agriculture for eastern Canada, we want to look at this matter very closely.

Now let us consider the speech from the throne. There was great eulogy in certain quarters for the brevity of the speech and I think some called it a brisk, businesslike document. What a changeover, Mr. Speaker, in the attitude of the Liberals. I remember that in other years when I was sitting opposite we heard one complaint after another from prominent members on the treasury benches, including the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the President of the Privy Council and many others who were here during those days, that the then administration was derelict in its duty in failing to indicate the whole of its legislative program. I suppose what was a vice in others in other times has now become a virtue, because we know that the legislative program will be presented to us as time goes on. We have had the speech from the throne, which indicated in its usual general terms some of the measures to be brought to the attention of parliament, and the Prime Minister in his speech indicated further measures that would be laid before us. I suppose from time to time there will be more. If that is so, they will have seen the virtue of practices of the past and this is another indication of the about face attitude adopted by the Liberal party from time to time.

We have seen what I think was promised to be the cornerstone of the legislative program for this year, in the "Now you have it, now you don't" Canada pension plan. We saw last year the introduction of a resolution, on which there was limited discussion followed by a hastily called conference among the federal and provincial authorities when it was obvious the pension plan had run into grave difficulties. Some of those difficulties may have been ironed out. It is now indicated that there will be further discussion at the end of March. However, strangely enough we are told we are to have the bill introduced, once

more, prior to the dominion-provincial conference. Is this in the nature of a *fait accompli*, because we know that if a bill is brought into this house and suffers major amendments, there is only one thing that can be done; it must be withdrawn. Whether that is to be the case, we do not know; but the conference is being held in Quebec and that province has said it wants no part of this program as it was introduced. It is strange that a conference to discuss this subject should be held in the locale of a government which says it will have nothing to do with the plan.

We also have the questions put forth, quite legitimately, by the province of Ontario and we know other provincial governments have very serious questions to ask in this regard. Is this going to result in the withdrawal of the bill after the conference, if it runs into very heavy opposition and criticism? If it is, of course we will be back into the pattern of "Now you have it, now you don't". We saw this at the time of the budget; we saw it in a great deal of last year's legislative program. It was a matter of withdrawal, withdrawal and withdrawal. However, Mr. Speaker, I do hope that time has imbued some sense and maturity into the thinking of those who are today responsible for the direction of government policy, which is something that was all too often lacking in the last session of parliament. I hope that for the benefit of the country we can have a contributory pension plan which will meet the needs of the country from one end to the other, and not only parts of the country, and one that will do the most good.

**Mr. Regan:** Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Lambert:** When I have completed my remarks I shall be quite willing to receive questions, if I still have time to answer them. The throne speech mentioned the matter of interest free loans to university students and the Prime Minister referred in greater detail to this subject. This is all very well, to a limited degree. We have already seen that such a program does not meet with unqualified approval from the provinces, which have a very legitimate interest in education. I would have thought this was a rather pale substitute for the grand promise of the 10,000 scholarships that was paraded from one end of the country to the other. At the last session before the throne speech was even delivered we had the minister for northern affairs saying that this was going to be an integral part of the program, but we never heard about it. I have also heard the present parliamentary secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro) in recent talks across the country say that