

decided to close down. It so believed that tourists would not come to it because of the mercury-infected fish. Another camp, which competes directly with the first one, stayed open and the results have been disastrous for it. At the beginning of the year it had reservations for 95 per cent of its available cabins, etc., but it ended up with less than 10 per cent filled. For the smaller camps along that waterway, the English River waterway, this year's results have not been as good as anticipated. Where they expected a good year, for most of them it has been disaster; and in the coming year obviously they will be put out of business if they are not helped.

• (3:50 p.m.)

The question is one of compensation, not only for the camp owners who saw their investment wiped out in one blow when the announcement in respect of mercury was made but for those who normally sought employment in the tourist camps. We cannot ignore these people, either. This is an area to which the federal government should be turning its attention, together with the provinces. It might well be that this matter should be on the agenda of a Federal-Provincial Conference to discuss the third party effects of environmental pollution, because I do not believe the innocent should suffer and the guilty get off scot-free. I include the government in the latter category.

What is the solution? Let me outline a proposal. About 15 years ago in the Sein River System, including Rainy Lake, Rainy River, Lake of the Woods and Lake Winnipeg, there was a great deal of pollution caused by the development of a new mine at Steep Rock Lake, Ontario. The mine experts went out there, examined the damage to the commercial fishermen and the tourist camp operators, agreed on a price, bought the property, and the next day sold all the property back to these people for the sum of \$1.

That is an example of compensation. Perhaps we should be looking at the position of the commercial fishermen in areas in which we feel there will be no possibility of cleaning up the water in the future, with the idea of compensating them in this way. I do not believe it is a healthy situation when people are compensated on a year by year or a month by month basis. They are not encouraged to take advantage of other training so long as they receive compensation from the government. This might be an opportunity for the government to begin making another form of compensation, such as I described before.

Also, I believe we should look at the position of tourist camp operators who are in the same position and provide a formula whereby the government would assist those affected, on the basis of a system of paying them the capital value of their asset. Furthermore, the government should consider the situation of the people who normally sought employment in these areas in an effort to find a way to adequately compensate them for the employment opportunities they have lost.

I realize there are limits to how far we can go. However, another matter at which I think the government should look is that which pertains to gas station opera-

tors and others in the tertiary areas. I realize it is difficult to provide adequate compensation, but perhaps it might be provided on a community basis, such as changing the designation of the area to assist resource-based industries. It seems to me the government should address itself to this situation particularly as we examine our environment, determine what substances we are discharging into the air, water and life and their effect upon other innocent bystanders.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):

Mr. Speaker, at a time when this nation needs a most positive form of government and government direction, it is regrettable that this government should produce for the House a Throne Speech such as this, which has been referred to by the preceding Liberal speaker, the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Reid), as a philosophical outline. One would think that at a time such as this the government would be more interested in providing the House with an economic policy and an economic outline of its intentions.

It is also regrettable that this government has underlined its incompetence by producing such a document at this time. I say this keeping in mind that before I left Cape Breton I made it quite clear that I stood behind the implementation of the War Measures Act to cure the regrettable situation which has developed in the province of Quebec. I consider the proper implementation of that act to be the duty of this government. At this time of the death of an outstanding Canadian and when we continue day by day to hope that we will see the safe return of Mr. Cross, it is very regrettable that the government has not taken the proper action.

It is further regrettable that the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Macdonald) passed up the opportunity to put the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette) in his place when he objected to the fact that our forces in the province of Quebec are English-speaking. Our armed forces have gone to Quebec in order to protect its people, yet when a member of the House raises a question such as he did, the Minister of National Defence fails to come to the support of these men.

Are we to believe that the Canadian forces in Cyprus or the Canadian forces in Germany would be withdrawn because the members of the forces are English-speaking? I believe the Minister of National Defence owed it to his troops to stand up and defend them in that situation. When the integration of the armed forces was before us there was no complaint about their being English-speaking. In this country, which from the early hours of Sunday has seemed finally to be showing a united front, it is regrettable that a member of this House should seek to divide the country by complaining about English-speaking soldiers being in the province of Quebec. It is also very regrettable that the Minister of National Defence did not defend his troops. When I rose to speak I did not think, and I still do not think, I could surpass the criticism directed at the government by the last speaker, the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River. He questioned the sanity of his own government. He said it is unjust and

[MacInnis M.]