

*The Address—Mr. A. Smith*

parliament to argue whether or not this government has completed all its election pledges given prior to the present year. I am prepared to let the public of Canada, the small business men, the farmers, the people from the eastern provinces make that decision.

I suggest we might look ahead at some task which, conceivably, the next Conservative government might undertake into the process of its ordinary business over the coming years. First of all I might revert to the field of international affairs. Canada, as I have said, has taken part in a number of aid programs, primarily through the Colombo plan. It has also given extensive assistance to refugees throughout the world. I have a feeling that we might make a greater contribution in another field. My experience has been that many of the countries which receive aid view it with a certain suspicion. They are inclined to inquire what strings are attached to it. Regardless of the course we follow, we must close the gap between the have and the have not countries. So we have two choices open to us; first, to continue to provide goods and services or, second, to assist those countries by providing technicians, educators and others with special skills.

As an example, I visited a clinic in Egypt which was contained in a refugee camp with a population of 3,000. This particular clinic, with two doctors on its staff, treated 550 people in the course of the day I was there. Hon. members can imagine the sort of treatment those unfortunate people received. I thought at that time that if it was possible to have one doctor from any of our graduating classes in Canada, someone about to enter his profession, spend a year or two at this clinic, what a help it would have been to these people. I have often thought, when I have seen refugees attempting to take vocational training courses without text books, what a useful thing it would be if an institution such as our trades and labour unions could arrange to supply these people with the necessary technical books. I have thought the same thing with regard to assisting underdeveloped countries to develop their oil fields, water resources, drainage, farms and so on.

Thus in the next parliament I suggest that we might review the whole operation of mutual aid. Having set up an effective office of mutual aid under an able director, it seems to me that we might shift our emphasis to providing more personnel. I suggest that it might be more acceptable than offering either material aid or cash. The Colombo plan is an example of the success we have had in that field. I do hope this scheme can be expanded to cover countries outside the commonwealth.

The second matter I would like reviewed in a new parliament concerns taxation. Anyone who has been exposed to the present taxation statutes of Canada will realize the difficulty in trying to understand the complications involved. It seems to me that we might review the statutes to determine whether our present laws provide sufficient incentive for business, corporate entities and individuals. We might ask ourselves whether we are taxing ourselves to such an extent that private interests cannot expand because tax incentives do not warrant it. Thus I think there should be a clarification of the present tax statutes.

I have often suggested in this house another matter into which the government of the day might inquire. My friend the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources will appreciate what I am about to say. National park policy should be reviewed to determine whether the present act is capable of meeting the two extremes with which we are presently confronted, on the one hand the position taken by those who wish to see the parks maintained as natural museums, and on the other the position taken by those who wish to see ordinary development of the parks for the enjoyment and use of the public. A thorough review of the legislation is needed to eliminate this contradiction.

I turn now to the question of defence, a matter of considerable importance in this house. At some stage we must come to a conclusion as to whether or not Canada will assume nuclear arms. I think all of us can sympathize with the position taken by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the government, that at a time when Canada is playing a vital role at the United Nations in attempting to work out a satisfactory disarmament agreement it would be very unwise for a country that has assumed leadership in this important field to equip its forces with nuclear weapons, tactical or non-tactical.

I hold a view which may differ from that held by hon. gentlemen on the front benches. After we have explored every possible avenue for working out a successful agreement we must then accept the advice of our professional military people. If they consider it is necessary to the defence of Canada that we have nuclear weapons, I believe we have no other course to follow. However, I emphasize that this should not be done until every avenue has been fully explored toward reaching a successful agreement on disarmament. The taking on of nuclear weapons prior to that would hopelessly prejudice any discussions or negotiations that might lead to a successful agreement.

This is a somewhat different position from that taken by the Leader of the Opposition, who in one report is stated to have said in a