

(Translation):

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. Additional time has been given to the hon. member so that he might finish his speech. Is he about to conclude?

Mr. HEON: I am about to conclude.

(Text):

I want to conclude with these words. This is no time for party politics. This government has been elected, and it is its job to carry out its programme. If it is unable to do so, it should say so officially. Personally I am in favour of following the constitutional principle that an elected administration should serve out its term. Then let the electors judge, because Canadian electors have a reputation for judging their public men carefully. They have made mistakes since 1935, but one day or another they shall correct those mistakes.

Mr. RONALD MOORE (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, the postponement of the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne has obviously had the effect of reducing interest in a great many of the subjects which would have been discussed had the debate continued until the votes on the amendments were taken. However, I understand that when the estimates of the various departments are brought down ample opportunity will be provided to deal with most of the subjects which would have been discussed had the debate continued.

On glancing over the speech from the throne, I see very little on which discussion could be carried on. It seems to me that the speech from the throne is more concerned with concealing than with revealing the legislation the government intends to deal with this session. It was stated that the problem of reconversion, started some time before the end of the war, has now been completed, and Canadian industry stands ready to supply the needs of a country at peace with the world. Before the war, other countries marvelled at the efficiency of Canada's industrial machine. If our industrial machine had a great productive efficiency before the war, those years of war greatly increased that efficiency.

Many of our scientists, engineers and economists have told us that a great many of our economic problems during the depression years were due to the fact that technological developments had caused industry to displace men with machines. Unfortunately there has not been a study of this situation as far as Canada is concerned, but in the United States a definite study of technological development has been made. According to Mr. Nathan

Robertson, an American authority who writes articles for the *New Republic*, in the thirty-year period from 1909 to 1939 there was an increase in the productive efficiency of industry ranging from three to three and a half per cent a year. Mr. Robertson goes on to say that this productive efficiency was brought about by revolutionary new methods introduced to American industry. Some of those revolutionary new methods were such things as the machine production of cigars, the development of production lines in mass-production industries, and the introduction of the continuous strip mill in the steel industry. In this same period of time the production of rayon was quadrupled; the manufacture of industrial chemicals was trebled, and the production of automobiles increased by 180 per cent. In the refining of petroleum the increase was 290 per cent, while in the manufacture of tires and automobile tubes the increase was 325 per cent.

According to the same authority, who is quoted in the *New Republic* of October 1 last, in the twenty-year period from 1919 to 1939 the production per man-hour increased by 107 per cent, which meant that in the period between the two wars the production of industry was more than doubled. But what was the position with respect to labour during this period of time? It is true that the wages of labour increased, but only by 28 per cent. By 1939 unit labour costs were reduced by 44 per cent. I have not yet been able to find figures giving the technological picture of development during the last great war, from 1939 to 1945, but I think it is safe to say that the development of industry during the second world war was just as great as during world war I. It is necessary only to mention a few of the things the production of which was greatly stepped up during the war years. I remember the Department of Reconstruction and Supply stated that shells were produced during the second world war for a fraction of what they cost per shell during the first world war. In the United States ships went down the ways almost as rapidly as automobiles came off the assembly lines.

All these technological developments should be a boon to mankind, but in the past that has not been the case; actually they have been a detriment. One of the chief reasons for that is, I think, that the ownership of those means of production is in private hands. It seems to me that in the near future some step will have to be taken to make production of such machines which should be socially owned available to all the people of this country.