

of agriculture in both eastern and western Canada. You will be asked to consider other measures to assist in the improvement of farms and of farm income.

Going back to 1963, the Speech from the Throne said:

A new Department of Agriculture Act will be placed before you, to provide for two ministers in order that the needs of agriculture in both eastern and western Canada may receive closer attention. My ministers will institute new programs to make farming as a whole more stable and more prosperous.

To what extent the plans of the Government over the past two years have assisted those in rural areas, I am not certain, but one thing of which I am certain is that they neglected to appoint the second minister.

Honourable senators, I am pointing out these things to show that there has been laxity somewhere since the present Government took office in 1963. These are vital issues. Fisheries is one of the most vital, not only to the Atlantic provinces and the western seaboard around British Columbia, but all across Canada. Our fisheries are most important when it comes to the prosperity of our nation. In pointing out these facts and in quoting these statements, I wish to show that the Government seems to have a habit of repeating itself from year to year. This is what they say about the fisheries in the 1965 Speech from the Throne:

In order to raise the level of income of Canadian fishermen, a measure will be placed before you to provide for an expanded national fisheries development program.

What did they say in 1964? In 1964, the Government contented itself with promising that they would

undertake a national fisheries development program, reflecting the outcome of the Federal-Provincial Conference on Fisheries.

This was exactly the same. Back in 1963, when the present Government came into office, they said in the Speech from the Throne:

The government is initiating consultation with the provinces to work out a program for national fishery development.

Those were three Speeches from the Throne and each time the Government promised to do something, which they have not done.

Anything which has been done regarding fisheries has been done by the provinces themselves.

You will notice, therefore, that since May 16, 1963, the federal Government has been consulting with the provincial governments concerned over the fisheries but, so far as I know at the present time, no fisheries program has been initiated as a result of those consultations. At least, it may have been initiated but we have seen no results from it.

It does seem rather strange to those of us who live in maritime areas that the Government will grant subsidies to farmers and dairy producers—and we are not objecting to that—on almost everything they produce; but when it comes to subsidizing the fishermen on their production, it seems to me that the fisherman, as yet, is the “forgotten Canadian.” In Newfoundland recently, however, an effort seems to be in process by the provincial government to assist the fishermen to some extent.

In the Speech from the Throne of April 5 of this year, we find the following:

A measure will be placed before you to amend the Canadian Citizenship Act—

It should be quite a simple thing.

—particularly in order to ensure full equality of rights for all Canadian citizens wherever they were born.

In 1964, the Speech from the Throne said:

You will be asked to consider amendments to the Citizenship Act which will ensure full equality of rights for all Canadian citizens wherever they were born.

Going back to the year 1963, the Speech from the Throne said:

A change in the Citizenship Act will be proposed to ensure full equality of rights for all Canadian citizens wherever they were born.

It does not matter where they were born. We have had these three Speeches from the Throne. In each case they promised to do something about it. I am afraid some of these citizens are likely to have passed on long before the present Government comes to a final decision on this matter.

Honourable senators, may I refer now to the matter of Senate reform. It has been on the carpet a long time. In recent days, you have been subjected to all sorts of what I call insults, nasty descriptions, by some of our parliamentary colleagues in the other place.