

*The Address—Mr. Drew*

has recovered beyond the wildest dreams of anyone living in that very vigorous country five years ago. Japan is well on the way to a similar recovery. In both countries that recovery has been based upon a free competitive system. The kind of competition we are going to face everywhere throughout the world is something which can only be met if we possess the vitality and efficiency of that competition which has been the secret of the economic strength of Canada and the United States.

We all agree that there must be laws to prevent abuses. No one is arguing in favour of unbridled competition or unrestrained activities which would in any way affect the welfare of people anywhere. Our party believes in the rule of law and not in the rule of dictate or decree. If history teaches us anything it teaches us that there are no supermen capable of planning the life of a whole nation and that there are no supermen who are in a position to say when it is wise and not wise for this or that venture to be undertaken, without placing shackles upon the vitality, the strength and the power of expansion of the people. The decision of the government made within these past few days brings into focus as vital an issue as has been presented in this country in many long years. It is to be hoped that this issue will be examined carefully, and that the effect of such a policy will be examined, and that it will be seen what could happen in relation to the expansion of our country and to the employment of those new thousands and hundreds of thousands who are needed to produce the infinite variety of things that can be produced from our mighty storehouse of resources. If only the initiative, courage and vision of free men and women are permitted to find the ways in which that can best be done, we need have no great concern about the future development and expansion of Canada.

We are not asked to consider the effect of a single decision in this case. What we really must determine is whether we are to abandon our heritage of personal liberty by preventing new ventures which might compete with enterprises which the government has undertaken. If that policy holds, then all the government needs to do is to enter some enterprise and then the door is closed to the initiative and vision that might have found an infinite variety of new things which could have been done in that field. A system which permitted rewards in keeping with the risks involved was the system which opened up this continent and has made it the most prosperous area in the whole world. Surely

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at a time when we are opposing the power of the state over men's lives, it is no time to be adopting a policy which emphasizes the power of the state to deny to any man or group of men the right to undertake any legitimate venture which is within the law. This insidious encroachment upon personal freedom is something which all of us must consider in the light of the policy defined by the statement of the government itself.

If this government is going to use its powers to decide what is good for business, that is socialism, no matter what it may be called. Oh, I can hear the suggestion that it is ridiculous to describe the members of this government as socialists. Do they not work hand in hand with big business? They certainly do. Are they not to be found in all the best clubs, discussing affairs of the day with representatives of big business? They certainly are. How can you call them socialists? Well, after all, this would not be the first time that big business had worked hand in hand with socialists. It is a perfectly honourable political doctrine which, I might add, is followed by the directors of a number of large industries, as well as by those working in the industries. It is the policy which determines the doctrine, and the policies being followed by this government and now clearly enunciated which decide whether or not these are socialist doctrines. It is not the appearance; it is what happens. This is socialism in a silk hat.

I call attention to the need for the government to retrace its steps and at the time when competition is becoming keener everywhere to assure the kind of freedom of competition here in Canada which will give us the vitality, initiative and strength to expand employment, opportunity and prosperity in the way it can be expanded in this country of such immense resources. I would hope that we might have the refreshing experience of hearing some of the supporters of this government express their own belief that this is the time for government to get out of business instead of getting deeper into it.

It is only by dealing with a situation of this kind as soon as possible—and after all this situation only arose a few days ago—and dealing with it in sufficiently vigorous terms to attract attention, that there can be any hope of recharting our course at a time when the policies of this government should be designed to release all the competitive energy we possess in a period of the very keenest world competition which will increase in intensity day by day. It is no answer to say to the members of the house or to the