

The Address—Mr. M. Roy

In conclusion, I urge this Liberal government to take immediate action to control the problems of inflation facing this country. I hope it will introduce shortly some concrete and positive measures in this regard.

[Translation]

Mr. Marcel Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of the second session of the 29th Parliament I wish to congratulate His Excellency the Governor General and Mrs. Léger on their appointment. On behalf of my Laval electors, I offer them my best wishes.

The government could not have found a better counselor than His Excellency to assume the heavy responsibility of Governor General, which shows a desire to keep on working for the Canadian people even after having served during three decades in official duties outside as well as inside this country.

I also wish to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, the hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Stollery) and the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Pelletier). Those two members have broadened the scope of debates by reminding us of the principles of the Liberal philosophy, by making us aware of human problems at the world level, by appealing to the sound reasoning of privileged people who benefited from the industrial progress through the political structure within which every citizen was able to develop himself in the social as well as the economical field.

● (2030)

We cannot remain indifferent to the cries for help of the underprivileged, unfortunate or oppressed people or of children disabled in their body or mind. On behalf of all the Canadian people, the government has played a part during the last twenty years in the case of those victims of an unjust fate by steadily increasing credits to third-world countries through CIDA whose budget was raised by 15 per cent this year and which now stands at \$565 million.

It is not the responsibility of the Canadian Parliament to provide everyone of us with means of subsistence, however it must give all of us an opportunity for self-fulfilment if we are willing to contribute to our economic development. Ideally one should not care about what he can get from his country, but rather what he can do for it. If we consider the excellent record of the Liberal government during the first session, we realize that 50 bills were passed, all aimed at improving the quality of life of the Canadian people, while ensuring them a better future. When considering that 1973 record of achievements with regard to welfare, housing and farming, consumers and business people, we can see that the economic growth of Canada since 1968 has greatly increased, considering that the gross national product has gone up by 49 per cent during the past five years from \$71,388,000 to \$118,678,000 and that it has increased by 10 per cent in 1973. This is what we have achieved together and we have every right to be proud citizens of a young and vast country most richly endowed with natural resources.

I was reading recently the editorial in the January 27 issue of the weekly magazine *Express*. The editor, Mrs. Françoise Giroud, started her editorial as follows:

[Mr. Whittaker.]

Power in France is breaking up. In the United States, it is disintegrating. In Germany, it is weakening. In Great Britain, it is giving out.

and tonight we heard that the Conservative Party had handed its resignation to the Queen. It is obvious that this party has also failed.

For various reasons, but reasons which unfortunately coincide in time, the leaders of the western, industrialized, or developed world, or whatever you want to call it, the leaders of the world to which we belong, seem to have exhausted their resources.

These are comments that help us to better appreciate our situation and want to proclaim throughout the world our pride as Canadians and congratulate the right hon. prime minister (Mr. Trudeau), who is in charge of our country and has not exhausted his resources. When we hear some of the speeches made by members of the official opposition, we may well wonder if we are sitting in the same House and if we belong to the same country.

Evidence of pride which can be heard throughout the country, in the United States and even in the European Economic Community countries are the same. Everybody looks toward Canada. The only group which disagrees and which acts as a scaremonger, is the one that takes a gloomy view of things, like the frog at the bottom of the well. Because it sees a cloud through the well aperture, it thinks that the whole sky is cloudy and that a storm is coming up. Its expectations are storms and bad situations. This prejudicial attitude on the part of some hon. members opposite do not reflect the objectivity that any right-minded politician willing to work for the good of the country should have.

Last Saturday, Mr. Speaker, during the program "Les affaires de l'État", I was listening to the hon. member for St-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) who spoke about social justice. He said that the Speech from the Throne did not mention at all this social justice. He stated that we completely ignored regional disparities. Well, I would suggest to the hon. member for St-Hyacinthe that he should first have the courage to read the Speech from the Throne and second the earnestness to explain it as it should be.

We can hear many compliments on the part of the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe. I still remember when he was a judge. I wonder what kind of social justice we would have when one considers his performance, in Quebec city, when he bought, during a historical event in Quebec, an "armoured" truck, at a cost at that time, I think, of about \$48,000, and which was sold later at an auction sale for \$2,000, with about 200 miles on the speedometer! I do not think that this is the kind of social justice that the Canadian people want to see in this country. Still concerning the performance of the Liberal government in the field of job creating, we have once again set a record compared to other industrial countries. Since 1968, as many as 1,222,000 new jobs have been created. Again this year, the contents of the Speech from the Throne shows to what extent the government wants to tackle economic problems. We see the government laying down a strategy designed to tackle not only the effects of inflation, including the rise of food prices, but also the causes of inflation through some vigorous measures in the field of agriculture and also through a national energy policy.