

be important they are not fundamentally important, there are other questions much more important which should engage the attention of this house.

As far as the address of the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) is concerned the only matter to which I shall direct attention is his reference to the ten per cent reduction in the indemnities of members of parliament and in the salaries of the civil service. As a member of this house I have no objection to accepting that reduction; if the government feels that that will help to balance the budget or in any way alleviate the situation with which we are now faced, I, for one, will not protest against the imposing of that reduction. I cannot speak for the civil service, but I desire to take a few minutes to discuss the question of the reduction of salaries and wages as it affects present day conditions. I am afraid the government is giving a lead to the industries of this country which will have far-reaching effects. We can expect in the near future to have trouble between employers and employees because employers will naturally desire to follow the lead given by the government and reduce wages and salaries all along the line. By the reduction of wages and salaries we are reducing the purchasing power of the Canadian people at a time when it is absolutely essential that that purchasing power should be increased rather than reduced. Perhaps from their point of view the government is justified in stating that this is an economic measure because the economies which will be secured will save this country between \$7,500,000 and \$8,000,000. I believe that is the estimated reduction in expenditure stated last evening by the Prime Minister. As I have stated already that means that there will be a reduction of that amount in the purchasing power of the people.

What is real economy? There are different opinions in this country as to what it is, therefore, I shall state that in so far as I am concerned I believe that economy properly understood is the orderly arrangement and management of the affairs of the community and the wise and efficient use of its resources. To reduce the power of the people to purchase the goods which they need when those goods can be produced in abundance is not economy, yet the broad reduction of the community's income is the only remedy prescribed by those who are concerned in retaining intact the present economic system. We find the same procedure going on the world over. No doubt this so-called economy has emanated from those who are the real rulers of this

country. We sometimes think that this parliament is the institution which in the final analysis controls the destiny of Canada, but with all respect to our parliamentary institutions, with all respect to the views held by the people with regard to those institutions, in my judgment the real controllers of this country are the banking and financial institutions. Inasmuch as they will desire to retain the control which they have held in the past and which they hope to hold in the future, it is only to be expected that governments will follow their advice. Their advice always has been and no doubt always will be that during a period of distress such as we are now passing through we must practise economy or, in other words, reduce the purchasing power of the people to the minimum. I have no more to say at the present time regarding this question, other than to repeat what I said before that, personally, I am making no objection to the reduction proposed by the Prime Minister.

I shall now take up a little time in dealing with the speech from the throne. This afternoon we witnessed a rather important departure from the procedure followed by former governments. I do not say that this government is not justified in following the procedure adopted this afternoon, but since I have been a member of this house it has been usual for the Prime Minister to make a motion that the speech from the throne shall be the first item to be considered and that all other business shall be set aside until that is disposed of. We have this afternoon followed the practice set out in the rules of the house but why are we departing from the usual procedure? Is it because the government feels that the speech from the throne is so unimportant that it is not worth while for this house to set aside time in which to discuss it? I hope that is not the attitude being adopted by the government.

In so far as the first paragraph of the speech is concerned I have nothing to say except that we welcome our new Governor General. We were glad to have him read the speech in the chamber of the Senate and we hope that his stay in Canada will be a pleasant one, that when he leaves these shores at the end of his term of office he will take back many happy remembrances of his association with the Canadian people.

The next paragraph is important but I will pick out only those parts which I believe should receive discussion. The first statement to which I desire to call attention is this:

World conditions are beyond the control of the Canadian people.