

*The Address—Mr. Davis*

What does the speech from the throne contain in the way of remedies for the agricultural situation? One reference: The government is going to appoint a task force—as if it was necessary, Mr. Speaker, to appoint a group of people to study the problem further. We know what the problem is; what is required is the application of policies which will remedy the situation.

It is not simply a question of appointing bodies to administer subsidies; that is a deadly palliative that will have no effect at all in relieving the situation. There is a whole range of policies that need to be applied if this government is to come to grips with the problems of agriculture. It involves such things as marketing boards, where these are desired by the producers. It requires more leadership under the ARDA program. It requires an expanded farm credit program. Almost every session we seem to be amending the Farm Credit Corporation Act, and still never quite catch up to the technology that is advancing upon us. It requires some basic changes in transportation policy. With the ever increasing volume of farm products moving to markets, and particularly into export markets, we cannot hope to move these products in the time required unless some very fundamental changes are made in our transportation policy.

A more extensive application of crop insurance across the country is also a requirement. Up till now most of the provinces have toyed around with this, with the exception of my own province of Manitoba where it is available on the basic crops to farmers in the province. More marketing research is also required, processing products so that they can be more readily moved into export markets. We also require some enlightened trade policies. As I said, Mr. Speaker, the appointment of boards to administer subsidies just is not enough. Because what is being done is simply to place the farmers in the pockets of the administrators.

Some time ago the then minister of trade and commerce, now the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp), during the time sugar prices rose sky high, bravely announced in the house that he was going to seek commodity agreements with some of the world sugar producers, so that the producers of sugar in those countries would receive a half decent price for their efforts. What has happened to that brave promise, Mr. Speaker? We have not heard one single word from the minister since that

time and today our sugar beet industry, particularly in southwestern Ontario, is on the verge of elimination.

Increasing the subsidies which are provided under the Agricultural Stabilization Act is not going to resolve the problem. What are required are more fundamental and basic solutions. It seems to me that this government is either unwilling to come to grips or is incapable of coming to grips with these problems.

Apart from the appointment of such bodies as a feed grain marketing agency in eastern Canada, a dairy commission in Ottawa and a few other boards that administer subsidies, this government has not introduced any policy at all to deal with the deep-rooted and basic problems in agriculture. My suggestion to them is that, rather than appointing task forces, the implementation of policies would be a far better way of dealing with our agriculture problems.

**Mr. Jack Davis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, at the outset I should like to compliment the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Theirs were inspiring addresses and I am sure we have all benefited from them.

I want to concentrate this afternoon on only one aspect of the speech from the throne, which is the government's program for the coming session, and that is the broad area of transportation. More particularly, I should like to talk about urban development. I should like to talk about urban development in much the same light as other speakers in previous years have talked about rural development.

I think that the national government, the federal government, the government here in Ottawa, must take an interest not only in the lives and manner of living of the people in our rural communities across Canada, the population of many of which is declining, but also must take an increasing interest in the problems facing those who in greater and greater numbers are coming to live in our larger cities and towns.

The speech from the throne was a rather lengthy document. It contained flights of oratory, as well it might in our 100th year. It also contained a number of passages which were crammed with the lists and brief descriptions of pieces of legislation which will be dealt with by this house in the coming months. I am particularly concerned about the studies which the federal government proposes to undertake, in co-operation with