

*The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker*

Then in order to assure that the youth of our country can carry on, what is going to be done in respect of the important matter of family allowances, of extending their applicability to youths up to 18 years of age who are attending school? What action is being taken in this regard?

We had a complete unveiling of the speech from the throne from the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Sharp) when he spoke in Toronto a few weeks ago. What is going to be done in face of what now appears in the speech from the throne? There is nothing in the speech effectively to meet the problems we face, nor indeed to maintain the tremendous rate of economic growth in Canada which took place in 1962, and which is still continuing.

What of agriculture? The government are going to bifurcate the department. East is east and west is west, and only the twain shall meet in cabinet. What an idea. A problem which is facing all parts of Canada is to be divided. It was never originally intended that the heir to the eastern throne would be a co-equal, an hon. minister without portfolio. But this has now been changed; they are going to be equal. Who is to decide? Who is going to be the auctioneer when it comes to deciding the problems regarding the agricultural rights of eastern and western Canada? Where is assistance for agriculture? Have the government forgotten this? I can find nothing except generality in the speech from the throne. I find nothing of new programs promised to make farming as a whole more stable. I find nothing to provide expanding markets. Special attention was to be given to dairy products. We were ridiculed and reviled about our policy regarding dairy products, and now in office hon. gentlemen opposite adopt our plans and carry them on. Do they or do they not agree that it is necessary to expand credit for agricultural export sales? Do they or do they not agree on the need for a special feed grain and storage assistance plan for the eastern farmers? Do they or do they not agree that the promotion of better land use and conservation through ARDA should be followed? Do they or do they not agree that surplus products should be made available to support the world food bank? These are things that we would like to know about. But read the speech from the throne. It is noted for its brevity; it is equally noted for the paucity of the policies it contains.

What about economy? I spoke with admiration of the speech of the hon. member for Northumberland (Miss Jewett). She spoke with facility and ease. She had greater faith in those sitting opposite than, as will be

understood, is shared by us. But she did speak of the need of getting the economy moving. That is one of the brighter examples of Liberal mythology—getting the economy moving. I intend to refer in general to what has been done, the actions we took for which we were ridiculed and the effect on the Canadian economy of the course we followed, so as to answer once and for all that spurious argument.

The Liberals inherited a buoyant economy. On the basis of what we did and the action taken the economy has remained buoyant and there has been an advance in the economy not equalled anywhere else in the western world. They speak of getting the economy going. Well, Mr. Arthur J. R. Smith, director of research for the Canadian-American committee, speaking in the city of Toronto on April 27, said: "The task of the new Liberal administration would be not to get the economy moving but to keep it moving".

I might point out what the situation was when we came into office. It was well summarized by the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), speaking in the house in 1957, when he said that we claimed to have inherited declining revenues, and that was right; a shrinking national income, and that was the situation; a deteriorating economy, and that was a fact; and an arrested national development and foreign markets going or gone. That was the picture in 1957. In every part of the western world since there has been one serious recession and one lesser recession.

All through the piece one of those who said that the economy was moving forward very well was the president of the council. I have his address in that connection in which he pointed out that the economy was moving ahead very well in the summer of 1962, while at the same time in every part of Canada a doleful dirge was being sung playing down Canada's economic position. And today they pretend they have taken over a broken down Canadian economy. Sir, that kind of action is a despicable exercise in political deception endeavouring to lead the people to believe that the country has been slipping back. This is a myth, a myth resulting from a philosophy of undiluted despair.

I am going to review the situation in the country shortly to point out what the Liberals inherited when they took office, in order to answer these allegations that are so generously made without foundation and without being based on fact. Liberal despair over the Canadian economy has run into a flood of optimistic items in the financial pages of the press. Here are some of the recent headlines: *Montreal Star*, "Steel Climbs To