

The Address—Mr. Thompson

While we give some material aid to other areas of the world, certainly it is not much in comparison to the wealth which we have. The Communist world today is giving the emerging areas of the world ideas and concepts and a program which they say will work for them, even though we in the free world know that it is a wrong one. Russia and China are spending millions, even billions, in their determined and relentless propaganda war designed to place the universe under their kind of tyranny. I have seen this at work, Mr. Speaker, in Africa. I have seen it in Asia and in Central America, and I have seen the emphasis which is placed on this struggle. I have in my hand here tonight one of their typical magazines which you can find printed in almost any language in any part of the world. It is beautifully done and available at a lower cost than our magazines are priced. You can buy them for seven cents here. The equivalent magazine published by a Canadian firm would cost us \$1. In the emerging areas it is given away free. I mention this, Mr. Speaker, simply because they know what they want, and they have a program to get them where they think they want to go.

What is Canada doing today to give the men in the developing nations ideas with meaning which will work? What are we doing to give ourselves those same ideas? I greatly fear that Canada has done little in this regard. We are in danger of losing the world to communism by default, because of our lack of a positive approach. Too many of our businessmen who through the private enterprise way of life have been able to reach the position of power and affluence which they have today, are backing off and saying that socialism is inevitable. Just the other day a university student in this city came home and told her father that one of her professors had said in class that communism was inevitable, and that because it was we may as well begin preparing for it now. Have we no hope? Have we no faith in those things in which we believe and stand for? That is the question which we should be asking ourselves.

Likewise, what are we telling the world? Have we become so confused with those things which have gone wrong in our society, characterized by the cynicism of some segments of the press, the playing up of the seamy side of life in our entertainment both on T.V. and on the stage, to the point that we have lost faith in what we have? If the democratic way of life is to be preserved in Canada, we must not only hold fast to

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those truths which we cherish but step boldly out to make our voice heard around the world. This is our hour, if we use it. As the poet said, "There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." What happens if this is denied? "The voyage of their lives is bound in shallows and in misery." What use is there in believing in a great society and losing the world to communism? To me Canada must clarify her own convictions. During the months of this year it has been my privilege to travel almost from coast to coast across the country. As I speak to Canadians who are concerned and to Canadians who care I find that in their thinking there are some very fundamental convictions. I should just like to mention them very briefly in closing.

Underlying our freedom in Canada is a belief in the dignity of man as a creature made in the image of God with inalienable rights and responsibilities. If one does not believe this he can scarcely object to tyranny, or for that matter slavery. We believe in the rule of people by the democratic process. Power can never be wholly given to a man or to a party or to a civil servant, because history has taught us that men can and do misuse power, and has shown us how. We may quarrel among ourselves, we may become confused at times. There will be instances when even freedom may be found hard to manage, or would seem to fall short of complete efficiency. The alternative of giving absolute power to a state or to a party or to a person is infinitely worse. That is why I am convinced that in this House of Commons we are going to have to become accustomed for quite a long time yet to working with the minority situation which we have, making it an instrument and a tool for achieving greater things than if it were otherwise. I believe that the basic needs of all men must be met, and I think all Canadians agree with that. It is our duty and our responsibility to work toward this end. At the present time we have much social legislation. We must co-ordinate our policies, establish priorities and work out a sensible plan for meeting these responsibilities.

● (9:50 p.m.)

There are good and honest people in this country who, through no fault of their own, are struggling to pay rent, buy the bare necessities of food and clothing on \$75 per month. There are people in these circumstances right here in Ottawa, not to mention all across Canada. We ought to be ashamed to have this situation exist in this land of