

*The Address—Mr. Caccia*

Government has failed to understand that message to this point.

There are some very serious gaps in the Speech from the Throne. Let me attempt to illustrate three of them. No thoughts emerged from the Speech from the Throne on the effect of technological change on existing and potential jobs. Although jobs are disappearing as a result of the chip, jobs may emerge as a result of the chip. While people are losing jobs, new opportunities may emerge. The fundamental question facing any industrial society is how we will manage that transition and what is the role of government in the management of that transition. Will the Tory administration abdicate that responsibility? Does it believe that Exxon or IBM will do it for them and provide the necessary social shock absorber to protect those affected by technological change? If it believes that, it is dreaming in colour. The Government must play a profound and important role in protecting those affected workers. When workers lose their jobs as a result of technological change, someone must step in to manage that transition.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Why did you not do it?

**Mr. Caccia:** We did it and you know it.

**Mr. Benjamin:** What about the railroad workers?

**Mr. Caccia:** I regret that the Hon. Member has been so asleep over the last two years that he does not even recall the elementary tenets of a Liberal administration. We did it through training and the provision of early retirement schemes requiring workers in certain industries to retire at the age of 55. We did it by way of the mobility program, which the Tory Government cancelled last night, a program which permitted people who knew of an opportunity in another region to move there with their family with our help. That is a social shock absorber. During this time of technological change in which the pace will accelerate, the issues will become more complex and difficult to resolve. This is a profound and important issue for any government to address.

In the short time I have remaining, let me point out another shortcoming with respect to what is missing in the Throne Speech. No thoughts are advanced on how to proceed on the frail path leading to arms control and disarmament. It is a very complex issue and an important debate for everyone in this country. Surely the Speech from the Throne would be the natural mechanism to put forward the options and approaches that ought to be examined for the sake of debate in the House and possibly for the guidance of the Government.

The third issue that is missing from the Throne Speech is the very important issue of the interrelationship between the environment and the economy. As Hon. Members know, our economy depends very heavily on our natural resources. Therefore, we have a particular economic interest in maintaining our natural resources in a condition which generate the jobs and wealth contained in our unique nature that makes Canada so envied in the world.

We must ensure that the air we breath, the water we drink and the soil we use for agriculture, forestry and other purposes are in a sound condition. If one accepts that concept, one must conclude that our country and even the world cannot have a healthy economy without a healthy environment. The two are part of the same concept. Therefore, we must pay attention to the consequences of acid rain.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon. The Hon. Member may continue at that time because he has some time left.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** When the House rose at one o'clock the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) had the floor. Does he wish to continue in debate?

**Mr. Caccia:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Before the recess I was outlining some of the major areas in the Speech from the Throne that this Government has forgotten or omitted to cover. Having outlined some, I feel compelled to tell you, Mr. Speaker, and Hon. Members that an important area of policy making missing in the Speech from the Throne is the whole question that relates to the North, the economic future of native people in the North, and the utilization of the natural resources in the North. That raises also the basic question as to the economic future in the North when the exploitation of gas has been completed and the rigs are gone. On what will future generations of northern people rely for their livelihood and for their economic survival?

Another area also missing in the Speech from the Throne, that needs to be dealt with and cannot be dealt with in the limited time available to me is the important issue of a water policy for Canada. As you know, Mr. Speaker, it was the Liberal Government that launched a federal inquiry into water policy. The commission appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. Peter Pearse of Vancouver is to report next year. I would invite the Government to endorse and support that very important inquiry which will determine the quality and quantity of water that Canadians will need in the future, particularly as we are facing some profound changes in climate due to the greenhouse effect which, as scientists and meteorologists tell us, is bound to bring about changes in agriculture, different levels of water—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I am sorry but I have to inform the Hon. Member that the time allotted to him has expired. Do Hon. Members have any questions or comments? The Hon. Member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. McCurdy).

**Mr. McCurdy:** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) and it concerns his