

The Address—Mr. Mandziuk

had no crop at all, who did not even pull out their combines and who did not thresh a bushel of grain. I am worried about where they are going to get money for their seed next spring. These farmers—and many of them are in my area—had a difficult job in getting a supply of fodder in order to save their herds. In the fall they thought they were successful. However owing to the severity of the winter and having regard to the fact that they are rationing their fodder to just so many bales a day, they may run short. I suggest that while acreage payments are appreciated, this money may have to be used in order to supplement their fodder supply so as to save their herds. We want them to save their herds. I have had letters from farmers and I have had farmers speak to me and, according to the information I am given, there are those who will not have the cash with which to buy their seed. This situation would, of course, result in the land lying idle. We all know—and I do not know why the opposition cannot hear it—that our Minister of Agriculture has done wonders with our surplus. He did not pray for a crop failure in order to get rid of our surplus as did the former administration. He went out and sold our grain. He wants every acre put into crop so that we can meet our overseas commitments and can supply the hungry world. I suggest to the government that this problem will have to be solved and I would offer two possible solutions. The first would be cash advances on 1962 grain. That can be done on the basis of so much per cultivated acre of land. The second way would be by way of guaranteed bank loans. There is no doubt that such action will be necessary. I know that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hamilton) does not wait until he is kicked into doing something. He realizes the situation and tries to find a solution. I do hope that a solution will be found for this problem.

Finally, I wish to repeat that the farm organizations have complimented the government, and I take their opinion as against the criticism of the opposition. The farm organizations have come here with an open mind and have laid their cards on the table. We realize their problems and they realize ours. Together we realize that we must work as a team instead of trying to stir up one segment of the economy against another.

I also feel that simply to go around the country and make charges without an iota of truth is not going to convince the Canadian people that the Liberal party is now ready to take over the government. I believe they still have a lot to learn. Smear tactics, insults against the Prime Minister and acting big do not go over with Canadians.

[Mr. Mandziuk.]

Mr. G. R. McWilliam (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, following the time-honoured custom I wish to extend congratulations to the mover (Mr. Bourdages) and seconder (Mr. Browne, Vancouver-Kingsway) of the address in reply to the speech from throne. My congratulations and best wishes are extended to the hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Flynn) on his appointment to the cabinet and my congratulations and best wishes are also extended to the hon. member for Pontiac-Temiscamingue (Mr. Martineau) on his election as Deputy Speaker. The members of this chamber look forward to his discharging his responsibilities in the same capable and impartial manner displayed by our Speaker, who has gained the highest respect of all members for his impartial, firm and courteous enforcement of the rules, which at times is made difficult by over-zealous members.

The speech from the throne followed the pattern of throne speeches of previous years in that very little was stated about what the actual legislative program will be at this session of parliament. The omission of intended legislation from the speech from the throne over the years has led to great speculation in the press and among the public. It has made the role of the opposition more difficult. The leader of the opposition in the previous parliament and his colleagues complained bitterly about being denied information as to proposed legislation, claiming that parliament was entitled to know in the best interests of the nation.

This trend is still evident to the point that it is considered necessary tactics of the government in power. The foreseeable future does not indicate that future throne speeches will outline the complete legislative program of the then current sessions. Speculation will still be the order of the day. Announcements of legislation will continue to be timed as is considered most effective from the point of view of the government of the day.

Opinions are varied as to the effect of the final results of the withholding of the announcement of legislation from the speech from the throne. To many it appears as a strange vehicle in a country that boasts of a great democracy. The overriding fact is the claim that the government of the day, having been given a public mandate, has the right to present legislation in the manner of their choice as they hold the responsibility and are answerable for the consequences.

In every parliament down through the years, Mr. Speaker, members have taken the opportunity provided by the free-wheeling rules of debate in connection with the speech from the throne to discuss matters that range