

The Address—Mr. G. Caouette

never had any qualms when it wanted to grant loans abroad in order to stimulate development in Canada. They never thought about imposing wage and price controls on that, no, no. When it comes to financiers, there are no controls, they are free to charge the interest rates they want. No discussion about that. Go ahead, boys, interest rates do not matter. They even go so far as telling financiers in the budget speech that they will give them some extra help, that they will get tax cutbacks. That is all right!

Those people get help; their taxes will be reduced. However, the poor little taxpayers, those who can hardly survive today, are not mentioned. It is dangerous to help them. They must be kept in extreme poverty because it is easier to control them. This is the position of the government.

What does the Speech from the Throne reveal on the whole? Absolutely nothing. Simply an attitude which has never changed. We could hope for a change in the economic position of the government until the speech of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). After his speech, we understand that he wants absolutely no changes. He even gave us statistical data to demonstrate that we were in the best of all countries, in the best of all worlds, without any problem. There were several snags but they do not depend on the government. No. They are never concerned. Everyone is concerned except the federal administration.

The dollar has even been assessed today. We have been told that it has reached its lowest level since 1930. But once again it is not the fault of the federal administration. No! It is the fact of the other countries. If we have failed to maintain adequate productivity, if we have failed to encourage entrepreneurship by taking measures to stimulate individual creativity, if we have failed to do all that, it is not the fault of our government. No, it is always the fault of other countries. So the dollar is devalued and then we are told that now we will be able to export more. But I ask what will we export? Our manufacturers and our manufacturing industries have been ruined by imports during the last years and again this year. And what shall we export then? Our natural resources like we did before? This does not solve the problem, not at all.

We hear about energy. We must save our energy! We are going to build a pipeline to carry our oil products from the north to the Americans, and also a little for us in eastern Canada. Fortunes will be spent at that. In the meantime, one after the other the ministers tell us, just like the Prime Minister in the Speech from the Throne: Canadians will have to learn to tighten their belts, otherwise they will be forced to do so. That is the attitude of the government. On the other hand, has anyone been bright enough—and this is not the first time I have told them—to go and find out about the patents or registrations of new inventions meant to conserve energy, to decrease consumption of various sources of energy?

For instance, I refer here to gas in automobiles, or fuel for heating homes. In 1973, I told Minister Macdonald, who was then with Natural Resources: Have you had the decency—instead of telling Canadians to lower their thermostats and close their doors in winter when the weather is cold so that too

much energy is not wasted—have you had the decency to go and see at the patent office if there might not be new inventions that could be used to save energy? No! he had not had the decency to do so! He does not have any more today, even after having changed departments and all that. On the other hand, excuses are found. In a question on the order paper it was asked whether, since 1940, the patent office had received applications for registration of inventions meant to reduce the consumption of gas in automobiles or fuel for home heating systems? How many had been patented and rejected? Why? When? What savings were expected from those patents? The government, who is oh! so concerned about the economy, about reducing the consumption of energy, of pollution, replied: There have been 4,900 patents.

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Second question: How many were accepted? How much was saved? It is estimated that it would cost about \$10,000 and several man-days. It is absolutely ridiculous! We spend more than three million a day for oil products but we figure \$10,000 is too much to try to find some ways to reduce gas consumption for automobiles.

In 1956, I drove a vehicle which could run 65 miles to the gallon as a mechanic had added some part to the carburator. He had obtained a patent. To protect the multinationals, at that time, they sent the RCMP to smash the "device" so that it would not be registered. That was dangerous! Today, nothing has changed. They do not look for a solution. They talk, they write down speeches from the Throne but when the time comes to solve the problem, they flatly refuse. And they try to blame Canadians. Tighten your belts, but you companies, keep wasting as ever!

Again in the Speech from the Throne, the federal government is saying that it will create a royalties' program for petroleum products. That would be better than the income tax scheme we have now. The only taxpayers who cannot hide their incomes are the wage earners. Maybe the hon. member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme), but outside that... People who really have a high income or companies, let us not worry about them, they find a way to conceal their revenues. We would like the government to establish a royalties' program as Alberta did in 1935. In that way, the province of Alberta managed to straighten her economy cashing royalties on natural resources in Alberta.

On national unity, we heard all kinds of talks today, from every side, before it was finally conceded that this is an economic issue, which involves the rights of individuals—to a decent life—may I, as a Quebecer, as a Canadian, live in my province or in my country as a human being or should I starve in this country? The same question arises in different provinces, in Alberta as well as in Quebec. That is in the final analysis the issue of national unity. So what does the government have to do in this? It has to create a favourable economic attitude to the satisfaction of the people of a province or of the provinces or Canada as a whole. Then there will be no talk of separation and all that. When people are satisfied, see that