

The Address—Mr. Winch

on many of our roads. You cannot just build one highway in British Columbia and serve the province.

The federal government, through the medium of roads, reaps the major benefit in income and corporation taxes on new industrial development and in the development of new natural resources. As they can be opened up only by major highway construction, surely this government should lay down a policy of financial responsibility.

I read in the press in the past few weeks some criticism by the Minister of Public Works in Ottawa to the effect that the provinces, including British Columbia, were not meeting their obligations in connection with the trans-Canada highway. Of course we are not doing so in British Columbia. It is impossible to spend all the money on that one road. We must open up the other major highways in our province. If this government had any vision at all and recognized just what it means in federal revenue to have first-class major highways in the provinces they would be investing now and not just doing as they are, namely contributing only 50 per cent on one highway through each province.

It is my considered opinion that it would be one of the finest investments the federal government could make if they would accept the major responsibility for the cost of construction of all major highways in the provinces of Canada, and let the provinces and the municipalities have the responsibility for the roads connecting the major highways. I think that would give a great impetus toward the solution of our unemployment problem, and that it would give an impetus to our provincial and our municipal governments to tackle the problem in a more effective manner.

I see that it is now almost ten o'clock. My time has only three minutes to run. Although I had more to say I shall leave it until a later date, because it would be wrong if I adjourned the debate with only three minutes to go. However, I want to conclude by saying through you, Mr. Speaker, to the Prime Minister, and to the cabinet that they definitely made promises in 1945. We ask them to fulfil those promises. They can do a great deal more than the throne speech has stated. If they do not do so, the throne speech will go down as one of the most puerile things ever known in the history of the House of Commons.

On motion of Mr. Balcom the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Harris: As the Prime Minister pointed out this afternoon, on the order paper there are 15 resolutions preceding money bills. I wonder if we could agree that tomorrow we might ask the Prime Minister to signify His Excellency's consent to all 15 resolutions rather than have 15 different ministers do so?

Mr. Knowles: Has he agreed?

Mr. Harris: The purpose of our understanding is that we shall deal with amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act, taking the resolution and carrying it through to first reading of the bill. I should also like to announce that it has been agreed that we shall begin discussion of the protocol with respect to the North Atlantic treaty on Thursday, the 20th of January.

It being two minutes after ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.
