

*The Address—Mr. Andre*

trously high inflation. There are many factors which are contributing to this weakness and my colleagues have been trying to bring these to the attention of the government. I want in my remarks to talk primarily about just one of these factors, that is about Canada's science policy or, more accurately, the lack thereof.

• (1710)

The throne speech mentions measures to improve the transfer of technology from abroad. But what about the development of Canadian technology? In this highly competitive technological age we just cannot rely totally on foreign technology. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gillespie) mentioned in his speech that he will be investigating the licensing of foreign technology, recognizing that this mechanism is the preferred way to import technology. The minister indicates that some licensing arrangements, by the conditions they impose, handicap the licensee. He implies that the government will be trying to gain improvements. But what he apparently has failed to grasp is the question of timing. By the time a new technology has been developed to the point that it is ready for licensing abroad, the markets for this technology have already been captured.

So even without restrictive licensing, Canadian industry relying on imported technology will be restricted to the domestic market, and then probably only if it is protected by tariffs. But of even more fundamental long term concern, at least to me, is the fact that every time industry relies upon imported technology, the Canadian pool of technological competence is depleted and our chance of developing viable Canadian industry is reduced.

We must take strong measures to increase Canada's technological competence and this, of course, means establishing a fully co-ordinated science policy which means something and which works. Almost every one of the many groups which have studied and made recommendations regarding Canada's science policy has commented that a national industrial strategy must form the cornerstone of such a science policy. Yet from the remarks of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce it would appear the government is still no closer to such a strategy and apparently does not even know what would constitute such a strategy. Therefore, regrettably, we can expect a continuation of the fragmentation of Canada's secondary industry.

This fragmentation is one of the basic weaknesses of our economy. The reasons are complex, to be sure, but some of the elements are these: the extent of foreign ownership, the anti-combines legislation, unco-ordinated regional economic expansion, unco-ordinated research and development incentive programs. All of these, according to the throne speech, will be reviewed or altered by this government, but apparently in a totally unco-ordinated manner. This exercise, I am afraid, is going to cost the Canadian taxpayer great amounts of money and do very little to improve the state of Canada's secondary industry, which the Chemical Institute of Canada recently called a national emergency.

It is imperative that the government give the highest priority to developing a national industrial strategy and, in conjunction with that, a national science policy. The

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government should create a department of science and technology with responsibility to develop and implement this policy. This department should be responsible for all research and development incentive programs, for the patent office and all research agencies and departments of the federal government.

All government research and research incentive programs should be reviewed and related to the production of social and economic goods and services. The recently announced farm-out policy should be administered by this department and expanded to include most of the research now done in the House. I am certain that were she here the new Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mrs. Sauvé) would agree that these suggestions are both reasonable and necessary. I can only hope the minister is able to convince her cabinet colleagues that these steps are necessary and that the science ministry should be more than just a training ground for more important posts.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my remarks by stating that while the major part of my speech was based on economic matters, these matters are not my principal concern. The social problems facing Canada are frightening in scope and depressing to contemplate. But one thing is sure; their solution is almost impossible without a strong economy. Therefore, I would urge the government to act quickly on the many responsible suggestions coming from this side of the House, or else to trade places with us and let us get on with the job.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, it is traditional, of course, to offer you compliments on being elected as Speaker of this august House. I do not think I can add anything to what already has been said, except that I know of no man who would be better qualified or more deserving of this high honour and office. I am pleased, also, to offer congratulations to the Deputy Speaker, the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave), with whom I have had considerable association during the last four and a half years as a Member of Parliament through the parliamentary breakfast group in which he has been a very active participant and leader. I am proud to be associated with that hon. member and to congratulate him upon the honour this House has bestowed upon him. In addition, I should like to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. They did great credit to themselves and to the constituencies they represent.

In the Speech from the Throne a great deal of importance was attached to a policy area which is of immediate concern to me as parliamentary secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde). There was in the throne speech a great deal said about social security matters and forthcoming changes in the fitness and amateur sports program, as well as changes in health care arrangements. This is the area about which I would like to speak more specifically.

The Speech from the Throne contained a brief reference to the fact that federal-provincial meetings at the ministerial level are projected on a range of urgent mat-