

*The Address—Mr. Riis*

greed whenever they could and wherever it occurred, that that was the motivating force in the country. I want to dissociate myself and my Party from that position; we do not believe that greed is a motivating force or that it ought to be supported wherever and whenever it happens.

We have many concerns when it comes to the practices of the Government. We notice that today increasing numbers of Canadians find it very difficult to pursue post-secondary educational plans, whether it be in a vocational school, a technical school, an institute, a college, or a university. This is especially so in the Province of British Columbia where the provincial Government has seen fit to cut back on grants to students, making it an almost exclusive responsibility of the federal Government's loan program. It is not uncommon for young people to be graduating from our post-secondary institutions with \$25,000 to \$30,000 of debt and being unable to find employment in the areas for which they were trained.

I find it rather odd that Governments which say that they cannot afford to maintain support for post-secondary education, such as the present federal Government or the Government of British Columbia which says that it must cut back on post-secondary education, can find substantial amounts of money for selected groups. I remind my friends and colleagues that it was only over a weekend that the Government was able to commit itself to \$1 billion of taxpayers' money to assist a number of uninsured depositors and to help bail out two Canadian banks. Who were those depositors? There was a number of small depositors; there is no question that we ought to have assisted them. However, should we have assisted the Bank of America, Citibank, Wells Fargo Bank, the Bank of New York, and the Bank of Japan? They were large international banks which had millions and millions on deposit. In some cases they had in excess of \$25 million on deposit. Should we have used taxpayers' money to support and bail out those depositors? I think not. If a Government can find \$1 billion over a weekend to assist such depositors, surely to goodness that same Government should be able to support young people in post-secondary educational institutions to develop their talents and expertise.

As a Member of Parliament from British Columbia I am particularly concerned about the actions of our Premier of late. Canada had a case before the International Trade Commission, before the Department of Commerce, in response to a countervail threat which would in fact result in the loss of somewhere between 25,000 and 30,000 jobs in the Canadian forest industry. The Premier of British Columbia decided to indulge in some public musings. He and his Minister responsible for forests went around the province saying that perhaps our stumpage rates were too low, that perhaps we were subsidizing our industry, and that perhaps we should carry out a review. That forced the federal Government, the industry, the unions, and the provinces involved in this countervail threat to make an eleventh hour proposal to try to rescue this sabotage effort by the Premier of British Columbia. The American forest companies have responded with a no, now

that the Canadians have essentially admitted to unfair trade practices. One American Senator said that Canada had been caught with its hand in the cookie jar. They have now got us, in that essentially the Government of Canada, at the encouragement of and in response to the initiative taken by the Premier of British Columbia, was forced to concede that we were guilty before the verdict had been delivered.

It is of concern to us all when we consider to what extent this is a fair and caring Government. What kind of Government would introduce legislation, as the present Government plans to do, which would result in additional drug costs to Canadians of up to \$650 million per year by 1995? The Canadian Drug Manufacturers Association tells us that if the patent law legislation is brought forward and passed, the people of Canada will be paying hundreds of millions of dollars more for their drugs each year. That will place a very heavy burden not only upon our various health institutions across the country but particularly upon elderly Canadians. Again that is something a fair, caring, and concerned Government would not be introducing, to say nothing of the unemployment insurance changes which were brought in where people who had paid into the insurance for years and years were unable to take advantage of it as a result of legislation. It is a bit like purchasing fire insurance on one's home and not being able to collect it if the home burns down. In the spirit of fairness that provision should have been deleted, certainly removed retroactively.

On a daily basis we hear of our farming sector being in grave difficulty. I know from speaking to the people who produce food in my own constituency that they are under extreme pressure. However, one of the major programs brought in by the Government does not provide assistance, support, or long-term low interest money. It provides money for people to get out of farming. In other words, the Government wants the number of family farms to be reduced. It wants people to get out of farming. Essentially, if we continue as we are today, the agricultural sector of Canada will be left to the large corporate sector, and we will have agri-business in place at the expense of the family farm.

What about the promise of the Polar 8 ice-breaker contract to British Columbia? We could argue about it, but the previous Minister said that an announcement was coming shortly. The previous Minister of Transport indicated that tenders would be restricted to West Coast shipyards. We waited for weeks and weeks, months and months, and as late as today the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) still had nothing to say about keeping that government commitment of many months ago to the people of British Columbia.

What about real support for reforestation, silviculture, fisheries enhancement, or for the development of urban infrastructure? Today we heard the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) say that they wanted to assist in real job development in Canada. There is no better way for the Government of Canada to invest in the future of Canada and to provide serious long-term training opportunities