

*The Address—Mr. Chatterton*

secretaries and others who have been elevated. I express my joy in seeing our Speaker in good health and my satisfaction in knowing that the proceedings of this house will be guided by his firm impartiality.

Every member of the house is proud of certain things in his riding. There is one aspect of my riding of Esquimalt-Saanich which is rather unique. I refer to our mild climate. I have here a clipping from a Victoria newspaper which circulates in my riding.

**Mr. Winch:** Is the hon. member suggesting that the House of Commons has any control over the climate of Canada?

**Mr. Chatterton:** I did not hear the hon. member well, so I do not understand what he said. The clipping is from the issue of January 30, and it contains a picture of the crocuses and other flowers. I mention this not in boastfulness but because there is a connection between the climate of my riding and certain items contained in the speech from the throne. Because of the salubrious climate many fine people from elsewhere in Canada and from other parts of the world come to settle there, and in particular many of our senior citizens come there to enjoy the advantages of the area. I am therefore very pleased with the increase of \$10 in payments to old age security recipients, effective as of February 1 last.

I made the few notes I have, Mr. Speaker, before the debate on the speech from the throne was interrupted by certain important measures. Since then I have listened to the debates carefully, particularly with regard to the question of pensions. I was very impressed with the Prime Minister's speech on February 8, a speech that I like to look upon in my own mind as the "horns of the dilemma" speech. At that time the Prime Minister pointed out that social security payments had increased from \$1.3 billion in 1956-57 to \$2.3 billion in 1961-62. He also pointed out that increases in payments of all kinds to the provinces and to provincial institutions had increased from \$689 million in 1956-57 to approximately \$1.47 billion in 1961-62. Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, these increases in payments to the provinces could have been used by the provinces to relieve the municipalities and the property taxpayers. I know that in the case of British Columbia this unfortunately was not done.

Reverting to the Prime Minister's speech on February 8, I would point out that he put a question to the Leader of the Opposition. The question was this. Which of these measures, payments in respect of which increased from 1956-57 to 1961-62 by something in

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the order of \$1½ billion, would the opposition have eliminated? It was a clear question. I have heard equivocation, I have heard aspersions, but I have heard no answer in spite of the fact that the official opposition supposedly has all the answers. I heard many references to election promises and, Mr. Speaker, that brings me to a quotation from an editorial in the Victoria daily *Colonist* of January 31, 1962. The editorial is headed "The Growing List", and reads as follows:

It was just a little more than three months ago in Victoria that Mr. Lester Pearson made his now famous "no-promises" speech which was hailed by his followers as the introduction of a new and courageous Liberal party policy. It was then that Mr. Pearson bravely declared that his party would in future devote itself to planning practical and progressive action rather than "planning by irresponsible promises which . . . cannot be carried out."

Unkindly perhaps, but naturally, it was noted at the time of this revolutionary approach to election campaigning by the national Liberal leader that his party had already committed itself to an impressive list of promises—promises, to mention a few, ranging from a reduction in income tax to the institution of a free national health plan, from guarantees of full employment to the underwriting of low rental housing, from increasing veterans pensions to giving financial assistance to power, transport and other economic developments—all without cost to the taxpayer.

Many Canadians took Mr. Pearson at his word to generously overlook these earlier pledges, satisfied perhaps that, as the Liberal party had already saturated the field of promises, its leader could now safely promise that there would be no further promises. On the face of things there did, indeed, appear to be nothing left to promise.

But, as was quickly proven, any thoughts along these lines failed to show an appreciation of the ingenuity of Mr. Pearson and his cohorts, for, incredible though it may seem, the list of Liberal promises is still growing. So expert have they become in the science of making pledges that they have extended their operations to take in regional levels on a selective promise basis. This newest phase was explained Sunday in some detail by Maurice Sauve, the Liberal party's Quebec public relations director.

In briefing the Liberal national campaign committee in Ottawa he told them that Liberal workers must get about the ridings and find out what people want. There was no use promising bridges if they wanted hospitals, he said. Thus it would appear that even though the Liberals have run out of national promises they still have the parishes to work on. What price Mr. Pearson's promise not to promise now? Or don't the little ones count?

That will take care of the question of election promises so often referred to by hon. members opposite.

My area also has a very large percentage of veterans, particularly older veterans and veterans with war disabilities. As a tribute to those veterans, and particularly to those who are handicapped by virtue of their war disabilities, I should like to mention the name of one as representing all the veterans who have war disabilities. I refer to one of my constituents by the name of John Windsor. He was wounded and blinded in the Melfa