

directed to the province of Quebec. The Progressive Conservative members are against French Canadians and they always have the odd greenhorn to sully people.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order, please. Does the hon. member for Lafontaine (Mr. Lachance) wish to ask a question or is he rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Lachance:** I wish to put a question to the minister, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Since the time allowed to the hon. minister is not completely expired, the minister may, if he so wishes, answer a question. Does the minister agree?

**Mr. Ouellet:** Agreed.

**Mr. Lachance:** Mr. Speaker, could the minister give us the date of Lord Killanin's statement?

**Mr. Ouellet:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The President of the International Olympic Committee made this statement at the beginning of March, and I have here a copy of the *Toronto Sun* of Tuesday, March 5, reporting Lord Killanin's statement.

[English]

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, at the outset I should like to express my appreciation to the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) for relinquishing his position today and allowing me to take his place since I have another engagement on Monday. I should also like to express my appreciation to the hon. member for Huron (Mr. McKinley) who was instrumental in making these arrangements.

The Speech from the Throne in the main has recognized a number of economic issues which prevail both at home and abroad. Whether or not the issues to which the government has made reference will be resolved as time progresses is really another matter which is dependent upon the attitude of the government and, indeed, the course of its legislative program. One would have to possess a short memory not to note that basically this Speech from the Throne is very similar to the Speech from the Throne delivered at the commencement of the previous session a year ago, possibly with the exception of a little more emphasis on energy and agriculture and items such as the status of women. The government really is saying that basically we have the same problems today as we had a year ago, gravitated by a year of government inaction. It is saying, in effect, "We have failed to correct them, but give us another chance and we will stumble along with the aid of the NDP, hopefully for another year."

● (1530)

The Speech from the Throne speaks of a serious disturbance in the international economic situation arising from problems of supply and the price of a number of commodities, particularly oil. It makes reference to problems relating to food, the shortages of foodstuffs here in Canada and throughout the world, the dramatic increases in the price of food, the causes and the effects, and it proposes some solutions. It proposes to increase production of a number of agricultural products. This is rather a turn-about

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because only a couple of years ago the government was paying farmers to slaughter chickens, it was paying farmers not to grow wheat and penalizing the dairy industry for producing dairy products. It speaks of inflation, and in that area the government is in a league of its own. It refers to inflation as a phenomenon, for which no real concrete solutions are proposed. It speaks of the necessity for increased job opportunities. It speaks of matters relating to greater control over our economic affairs. It speaks of the need to overcome regional inequalities and disparities, and a few more crumbs are thrown out for the west. Of course, it mentions housing, transportation, the enhancement of our quality of life, aid to small business, industrial development policy, science policy, and so on.

Out of force of sheer necessity any government would be bound to recognize these problems which are very real, but we on this side of the House are in no way convinced that a year from now these problems will not be with us still, for in our opinion the major objective of the government is to cling to power. Moreover, it lacks the vision, the expertise and the determination to grapple effectively with the matters mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, matters which in effect threaten the economic fabric of our nation. I will have a little more to say about that later, particularly in relation to agriculture and transportation. However, before doing so I want to refer to another matter, one which concerns me very deeply. The throne speech has made reference to a number of economic disturbances. I shall refer to a disturbance of a social nature which in my opinion transcends the most important of the economic issues which we face.

I refer to the escalation in the decay of the human and moral standards which prevail in our society, a growing permissiveness, a growing disregard for discipline and the upholding of our laws, both human laws and those which are enacted by government legislation. I see the decline in our spiritual and moral fibre as a major threat to this nation and to neighbouring nations. I see the stability of family life being undermined by the direction of government legislation and its seeming disregard for the concept of the family unit which is a vital and integral part of our social structure. I see our educational system creating conflict and confrontation between generations and within family units. I see governments and society in general acquiescing in laws, written and unwritten, which are contrary to the laws of humanity and nature, where for example a person who has ambition and initiative is penalized if he looks after himself.

I see the incredible increase in the incidence of abortion, approaching a 30 per cent increase on an annual basis. And to think that in this chamber we have a number of so-called progressive-minded people who promote the concept of free abortion on demand! This is a philosophy which contravenes all the laws of nature and God. What hypocrisy, Mr. Speaker, when on the one hand we become deeply grieved and emotionally stricken over the loss of one baby, one man or one woman through violence or some other extraordinary event, or through some stupid accident, and on the other we spend great sums of money on protecting the safety of individuals, on search and rescue and on environmental protection devices—all aimed at preserving life. I agree with that, because I believe life is sacred; yet we condone, and in many cases promote, mass