

Second, how can we best meet the social and economic challenges confronting Canadians?

The motion was moved in the House today because there is a widespread feeling that the Government of Canada has mismanaged its responsibilities. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) knew he was not telling the truth six months ago. He deceived the Canadian people in the last election, not unwittingly. No wonder Canadians now suspect anything the Prime Minister says or does.

The government now has difficulty telling the difference between the underdog and the underworld. Canadians face two great challenges, one being the economic challenge presently being debated in the House; the other, equally serious, the political and moral challenge facing this country. This is perhaps even more serious, because economic problems never start with economics. Their roots lie deeper in human nature and politics. They do not end with economics either.

Take a good look at our nation today. There is disarray at home and abroad. Just as the Canadian people are suspicious of their Prime Minister, so our international neighbours do not trust him either. The right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) said that Canada has lost its soul. I am inclined to agree.

As we know, events move in cycles. Look back at the Victorian age, with its strict discipline nationally, socially, and in personal life. It was followed by the so-called naughty nineties. That cycle repeated itself after World War II. Such cycles are part of our attitudes. It takes much longer to change minds than to change laws.

As I said before, this country faces two great challenges, the economic one, and the political and moral one. We must face and master both. What are our chances of success? I suppose it will depend on the kind of people we are. At present we live in what is commonly called a permissive society, which depends for its shaky stability on the spending of capital accumulated by the discipline of the past. Our people were trained by an earlier discipline in self-reliance, self-control, and basically loyal attitudes towards the laws, and could be ruled with a light rein. The trouble is that we failed to condition the modern generation to the same standards. The Prime Minister and government have not been good teachers. The motion before the House mentions the deterioration of our social climate. I agree with what it says.

All the same I believe that the demand for respect is appearing again. The so-called student revolt at the universities has passed its peak, and students themselves are beginning to react against the minority which almost destroyed some of our universities.

The demand for law, order, and discipline is also making itself felt in penal matters. This may be the result of some horrible murders committed in Canada of late. These may make it impossible for the government to resist the demand for restoration of capital punishment. The trend of opinion is there for everybody to see. Even convinced abolitionists are coming around in their opinions. They have come to believe, for instance, that terrorism is a type of crime in which death cannot be the deterrent available only to one side. We are seeing the beginnings of a strong public reaction which must precede any general restora-

tion of discipline in our society. Mr. Speaker, I hope it continues.

Probably the greatest single force changing and expanding the role of our federal and provincial governments has come from the push for equality. This has gone beyond the question of rights. The goal increasingly is to level goods and powers, and it has been popular to use the federal government to redistribute wealth and incomes, and equalize differences in education and background. The result is that our Federal government has become highly critical of business and has downgraded initiative and opportunity.

All agree that governments have a responsibility in providing help for the poor, the aged and unemployed. It has been accepted that different people will earn widely different incomes in our market economy. The difference seems to be that, of late, we have wanted the government to use its powers to restructure the economic system and equalize its rewards. I think the strength of this movement has been out of all proportion to the number of people who really subscribe to it. We must ask ourselves if there is a valid reason for insisting that the fast and slow, successful and unsuccessful, should all arrive at the same condition at the same time.

Recently this House passed a bill which will turn over control of this country for three years to a bunch of amateurs. In the past 30 years the bureaucrats in this country have become more mighty. The bill I spoke about will make them almost almighty. It will mean that what is law today can be changed tomorrow, and what is not law tomorrow can be made law the day after. It means the decisions that affect our lives will not be taken by the recognized institutions. They will be taken elsewhere. Some things are right and some things are wrong. This type of law is wrong.

● (2130)

We have tended to transfer the effective power over our lives from the constitutionally visible offices of the government to the vast network that is being brought into being in the name of protecting us from exploiters. It seems the very fact that government has made a start towards equality has created a demand for faster progress, and we see federal spending shifting away from the traditional federal functions, such as defence, foreign trade and so on, and toward federal programs that reduce the freedom of individuals and lessen the power of other levels of government.

We must save billions of dollars to develop Canada. There must be more incentives for Canadians to save that developing money. Unless the federal government simply prints more money, the only way it can get a dollar is by borrowing and taxation. When the government borrows, that limits the money available to private industry. And we all know that taxation directly removes it.

We now carry a great burden in Canada because we have built a monster of law and regulations that is clumsy, inefficient and inequitable and, worse still, one that appears unplanned and unco-ordinated in the response to our real needs. That monster is quite literally threatening to bring us to national insolvency and overshadowing everything. The government is spending, spending, spending far beyond the taxpayers' means.