

*The Address—Mr. Irvine*

they always work. But the chief thing they work is havoc; and we find stupidity and wanton inflation ultimately corrected by unemployment, want and bankruptcy. If that is what you want, then you have it now. Of course I am not quoting all the evils of the system; I am just giving a few.

But more and more people, not only in this country but throughout the world, are refusing to submit to this hit-or-miss economic philosophy. They are beginning to demand that basic industries must be made responsive to the public they exist to serve. I hold, Mr. Speaker, that it is reasonable, that it is proper, that it is ethical, that it is humane and practical that the natural resources of this country, with all the technical achievements of the centuries, should be used in the public interest. That will not happen by accident; it will not come about merely by wishing it. If that is to happen then monopoly and its automatic control will have to yield to public ownership and a planned objective for the nation.

If it be true that monopolies are here; if it be true that their practices are inimical to social security and democratic government; if it be true—and it is true—that both the government and the official opposition disagree with the view that monopolies should be publicly owned and controlled, then let me ask what is the proposal of either the government or the opposition in respect to this cancer that is eating at the heart of the nation? What proposals have been made? There have been none in four years. The first practice followed by the government in respect to monopolies is to ignore them, to think they are not there. They are never mentioned in the speech from the throne. The leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) never even referred to them. The next thing is to "Canute" them, as the former Prime Minister, now the hon. member for Gengarry (Mr. Mackenzie King), did last year when he said the prices committee should not have power to do anything about these fellows who might have been charging too much, that it would be only necessary to point it out in public and they would become so ashamed they would go home and lower prices. Well, of course they did not, so that is what I call "Canute-ing" them. They say, "Go back, big tide, and become a nice, gentle little ripple." But tides do not obey.

The next way is to pass legislation, such as the anti-trust laws of the United States of America and the Combines Investigation Act in Canada. These are not only worthless; they are bad legislation. They are worthless because monopoly has grown perhaps faster since the legislation was passed. It never

was greater in the United States than it is now; it was never greater in Canada than it is now; yet these pieces of legislation have been in operation, supposedly doing their best. I say it is bad legislation because it is not effective. It is not effective in the sense that you cannot prevent monopolists from making agreements unless you can prove they have done so, and they can make agreements without your being able to prove it. But when you have proven the agreement was made you have still another stickler: what is a fair and reasonable profit? That is a gateway big enough for all the monopolies in Canada to walk through any time they please.

It is also bad legislation because if it were effective it would mean that we were turning back the wheels of progress, trying to divide up these great cartels and monopolies which have been developed—by whom? They have been developed by the most successful free private enterprisers of the nation; and they have developed in that way because they were found to be economical. Trying to force them to divide into innumerable small groups and fight it all out again would be ridiculous. In any case it would simply mean that history would have to repeat itself and the monopolies would have to develop all over again. So we have to face the fact that something must be done about them. We have to handle the monopolies in such a way as to save for the nation all the advantages and all the economies which in the process of industrial development have been revealed to exist in mass production and centralized effort.

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At six o'clock the house took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Pontiac):** Mr. Speaker, since last Wednesday I have listened to the various speeches and discussions which have taken place in this chamber. I have noticed that the new saviour of the world, the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew), is anxious and determined to follow the rules of this house. He does not care who pays for useless discussions as long as his name is placed in *Hansard* and in the press. Since the re-election of Maurice Duplessis in Quebec, it is no exaggeration to say that the hon. leader of the opposition has been presented to the people of that province as a kind of new world's heavyweight champion. If you listen to a radio blue speech, you will become convinced that our Lord Jesus Christ is nobody compared to the great new leader.