

*The Address—Mr. Regier*

being overcome by the dark cloud of war and fear, would turn back the clock and again bring about a fusion of church and state. Whether consciously or otherwise I feel that there are hon. members in this house who were elected on what I would call this wave of reaction. My forefathers and the forefathers of other hon. members gave their all centuries ago to bring about the permanent separation of church and state. I trust that no one in this house, whether on the government side, in the official opposition or in any section of the opposition, is going to willingly give his support to undoing the work which our forefathers accomplished at such great sacrifice.

You see, Mr. Speaker, when we have a fusion of state and church it does not take very long until it is stated that all the actions of the government have the blessings of the Lord Almighty. Then it is just a little step from there until you reach the point where to say anything against the government is sacrilege. That is the establishment of a dictatorship worse, I submit, than any we have seen for hundreds of years. Let us be on our guard against that in Canada. Let us rather have faith in this belief which we all share, that the breath of Almighty God is in each one of us, whence originates our saying that the individual human being is sacred. That is the basic belief on which our democracy is founded, the belief that ordinary men and women given freedom and knowledge will govern themselves all right.

Mr. Speaker, some editors have referred to the throne speech as unilluminating, and others have forecast that this will become known as a do-nothing session. I hope that the government will show these forecasters to be wrong. I anticipated seeing action on a planned aggressive policy on immigration. We cannot further monopolize our rich resources for the comparatively few people we have. We must face that basic fact. We need more people to consume our basic products but we do not want the present immigration policy, which is adding to the number of unemployed.

I cannot blame my unemployed at home for their attitude when they see all types of immigrants employed and they themselves unemployed. I cannot blame them for feeling that the immigration policy of this government is wrong. Out of that feeling is going to come a demand that we halt immigration, and I would hate to see the day when we had such a demand throughout the nation because we do need more people. Must our immigration policy be based on the employers of

Canada? Can it not be based upon the principles of compassion and on the needs of our economy?

I would have hoped that the new government would have forecast an entirely new trade policy. We have surpluses or we are threatened with surpluses in all our major basic commodities, and I am rather amazed to see wheat farmers fighting fishermen and fishermen fighting wheat farmers on the floor of this house. I think it is terrible. Fundamentally and basically their trouble is the same. We have surpluses of fish, lumber, apples, wheat, cheese, coal, and meat. If they are not readily apparent, all of us who represent the length and breadth of the dominion know they do exist or would exist if those who are able to control production did not limit the production. As long as there are hungry men and women in the world a limitation on production is to me a cardinal sin. That is fundamental to me.

That is not to say that I do not believe in orderly planning of production; but when we reach the stage where we have big signs on Saskatchewan telephone poles, as we had many years ago, "Grow less wheat and help win the war", then we have reached a sad state of affairs. That was done under the auspices of the dominion Department of Agriculture.

Now we do have surpluses, and our manufacturers are very keenly aware that surpluses of secondary products are just around the corner. Unless action is taken on a national scale to relieve this situation there is only one thing that can happen, Mr. Speaker, and that will be a break in the price structure in our nation. We all know what that would mean. That would result in unemployment and a repetition of the hungry thirties. Every worker's employment, every worker's job, and every farmer's prosperity is hanging in the balance today.

The minister the other day indicated that we were selling more than we have ever sold before. I agree that we are. However, our productive capacity here and all over North America is going up by such leaps and bounds that we have to have goods moving faster both at home and abroad. That ought to be the prime consideration of this government, to get the goods moving faster. We know they are moving fast, but they must move faster still.

The great hurry of the government to remove the restrictions on the level of prices in the dominion a few short years ago has