

*The Address—Mr. Reid*

With the rise in the cost of living, inflationary signs in all directions and the 11 per cent sales tax on production machinery, which includes farm machinery, it is not to be wondered that total farm expenses increased last year. Proper and efficient farm labour is scarce and often non-existent. The cost price squeeze is very serious in the dairy industry and we recommend most highly that dairy farmers be given immediate encouragement before this situation builds up into serious shortages.

The Speech from the Throne suggests that the heavy demand for loans from the Farm Credit Corporation makes it desirable again to increase the capital of that corporation. I have been among those who welcomed and supported the improvements and extensions to the Farm Credit Corporation but many farmers are expressing grave worry over their indebtedness under existing trends.

I was pleased to hear the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Hees) this afternoon stress and recommend more aggressive selling policies, particularly in respect of farm products. I was also pleased to hear him stress the importance of the tourist industry in which we are very interested in eastern Ontario, with all the attractions of our great St. Lawrence river, our historic areas and our great historic development at Upper Canada Village. I feel strongly that this is an industry with great possibilities. We have hardly begun to earn the return that we might, considering all that we have to offer.

This debate, which allows such a wide-ranging choice of subjects to all speakers, indicates the main trend of concern. The concentration on all types of health and welfare problems, standards of living and their improvement, however commendable and popular, must surely not obscure the need for at least as much concentration on our productivity and balance of payment problems. It seems to me that we must at this time heed that biblical warning: Let us build our house upon a rock.

• (5:50 p.m.)

**Mr. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, as a new member making his first speech in this house it is a pleasant duty for me to congratulate you on the election to the important post you hold. While I was in Ottawa for two years previously, I had not seen Your Honour in the chair, but I knew you, sir, by reputation and believe you will hold this most important post and fulfil your your duties with dignity, honour and justice.

[Mrs. Wadds.]

As a new member, sir, I have found a great many frustrations whilst sitting here in the back benches. It is difficult to get attention at question time and, of course, being on this side of the house we are not really given too many opportunities to say our bit. However, sir, I should like to ask you, on behalf of the other backbenchers here, to do your best to give us our fair share of the time.

It is also a pleasure for me to congratulate the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, the hon. member for Dollard (Mr. Goyer) and the hon. member for York-Scarborough (Mr. Stanbury). It is not a very enviable task to listen to these hon. gentleman make their speeches, read them the next day and then realize this is the standard by which one will be judged. I agree with the hon. member for Peterborough (Mr. Faulkner) that this is an impressive task facing us now.

As a new member, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might be permitted to say a few words about the constituency of Kenora-Rainy River, which did the honour of sending me to Ottawa to represent their interests. Perhaps, too, at this time I might say a few words about the member of parliament who preceded me. I speak, sir, of Senator Benidickson who has gone to the other place and who represented the Liberal Labour Association of Kenora-Rainy River for 20 years.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Reid:** This responsibility has now passed on to me and I wish to assure you, sir, that I shall do my best to ensure that the Liberal Labour Association of Kenora-Rainy River shall be heard forcefully here in the house as it will in the Senate through Senator Benidickson. I should say too, that when Senator Benidickson was member of parliament he gave his constituency a service that has set an extremely high standard for me to follow. I have been into areas in the constituency that I was not aware he had visited, and I am finding out daily that he has done more good than I can ever hope to do if I spend the same time in the house as he did. My ambition is to be as good an M.P. for Kenora-Rainy River as he was, and this will certainly keep me busy.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Reid:** The riding of Kenora-Rainy River is, I am told, the fifth largest in population in Ontario and the second or third largest geographically. Its population is spread out