

but that would extend his time still further. It will require the unanimous consent of the House. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. McGrath: I thank the House for the unanimous consent. What prompts my question is that the minister's speech was supposed to contain all the answers regarding the egg affair. My question to the minister is this: why was it necessary for CEMA to allow 28 million eggs to rot, and why is the minister withholding from the House the results of the special study undertaken by the Farm Products Marketing Council which he commissioned early this year, and which has been in his possession since early April?

● (1710)

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has used extreme figures—28 million eggs, which is equal to 88 tons of protein, out of a total production of 5.7 billion eggs, or 475 million dozen or 32 million boxes or 16 million cases or 32,000 rail cars of eggs produced in Canada in one year. And out of that total production less than one half of one per cent was lost.

Mr. McGrath: It was 15 per cent of CEMA's total.

Mr. Whelan: The hon. member, who is, I am sure, a realistic person, knows one has to consider total production. Where any perishable commodity such as eggs is concerned, over production by as little as one per cent can cause utter chaos in the marketplace.

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise to take part in this debate. Before going further, I wish to congratulate you, Sir, upon your elevation to the position of Speaker. It is a position which I know you will fill with dignity and with fairness to members in all parts of the House.

I wish, also, to congratulate the mover, the hon. member for Montmorency, (Mr. Duclos) and the seconder, the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Lee), of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne on the capable manner in which they have represented their constituencies.

The first session of the thirtieth parliament meets at a time of great uncertainty within Canada. I think that the 30-member riot squad of the RCMP and the 100-man Canadian Forces guard which were required to deal with the riot on Parliament Hill on opening day are symbolic of the unrest which exists not only among Canadian Indians but also among other segments of society throughout the length and breadth of the country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crouse: It is wonderful to receive that applause. I hope some of it is for me.

At one time we were known as a peaceful country full of patriotic love for our traditions and our symbols, the true north strong and free. But times have changed and there are many Canadians today who feel, as I do, that they have not changed for the better.

The Address—Mr. Crouse

Speaking of symbols, one which we hold dear is the Canadian beaver. It is pictured as a strong, energetic animal, a worker and a builder. What is implied is stability. All this is true, of course. Canadians are supposed to be like the beaver. However, the beaver has one strange characteristic. In order to build his dam he must first cut down the trees adjacent to the site with his teeth. All goes well with the beaver as long as he is chewing and working, but if he stops chewing his teeth continue to grow at a phenomenal rate. Soon, he is unable to open his jaws either to chew trees or to eat the food he requires. Eventually, he dies of starvation, in the midst of plenty, all because he stopped working and producing.

I believe the analogy of the beaver may well apply to Canadians at this stage in their history. For years the government has adopted policies which tend to curb rather than increase production. This impression is reinforced by figures contained in the booklet "How Your Tax Dollar is Spent" for the year 1974-75 which show an increase in expenditure from \$10,767 million in 1968 to a proposed \$29.3 billion in the fiscal year 1975. A large proportion of the increased expenditure went toward non-productive, bureaucratic empire building, with the largest percentage of this occurring right here in Ottawa. Now we read in this year's Speech from the Throne the words of a subservient, frightened cabinet stating, and I quote:

For Canada as well as for most of the world the most serious problem is inflation; it is necessary to deal with its causes and to mitigate its effects.

Of course inflation is not becoming less evident; every financial paper in the country is predicting that it will become even more serious than it is today. What happened to the glib election-time assurances by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) that he is wrestling down prices? The Speech from the Throne warns about the impact of higher oil prices, the adversities which have fallen upon crops in Canada, the failure of industrial commodities to fall in price as expected, declining industrial production, record interest rates and industrial unrest.

Obviously, though, this new awareness of the seriousness of the situation is not matched by any program of action. The Speech from the Throne is nothing more than a proposed five-year plan, a rehash of promises which sadly lacks the one ingredient the situation so urgently requires, namely, leadership.

Weakness in leadership has been the trademark of the Prime Minister ever since he took office in 1968. Like a rudderless vessel, the ship of state has been drifting, buffeted by every economic wind that blows. Instead of laying down a course to be followed, the captain of this ship keeps asking questions. However, neither his first mate, the bosun, or any of his executive officers will give him any worthwhile answers. They need only look at what happened to the former minister of national revenue, the former minister of public works, the former minister of consumer and corporate affairs and the former minister of state for multiculturalism in order to see what happens if you talk back to the skipper.

This lack of direction is evident in the Speech from the Throne. Having admitted that inflation is far more serious than it thought six months ago when preparing the budget, the government nevertheless offers Canadians the