

That is Canadians. —should accept gracefully the fact that we are also more amenable to reason and, perhaps, more capable of wise decision than we are normally willing to admit.

There is a corker, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear hear!

Mr. Stanfield: Yes; reasonable and wise, I suppose to have chosen such a government—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: —which in its turn is reasonable and wise in its handling of the administration of this country under its terms of office. I suppose that is the message we are supposed to draw. Its wisdom and rationality, presumably, are demonstrated by the fact that the government seems to find so little to do. There are actually fewer concrete proposals in this year's Throne Speech than in last year's, despite the fact that this was to be the year of big things, big activity.

This year we are treated to vague promises and declarations that the present government believes in tolerance, in freedom, in equality and in several other things.

An hon. Member: Don't you?

Mr. Stanfield: So do we all. But what does that have to do with the serious practical problems this country faces! Mr. Speaker, I have not been able to go back through all the Speeches from the Throne, but I think this one must be the most stupefyingly complacent Speech from the Throne the government of Canada has ever imposed upon the people of this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Stanfield: If I did not have such a high opinion of the personal standards and conduct of members of the government, I would think they must have been "hopped-up" when they advised His Excellency the Governor General with regard to this speech.

[*Translation*]

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the language used in the Speech from the Throne is so pompous that I am wondering if it was not an attempt to conceal the sad truth behind verbose oratory. The speech was designed to drown us in words, slogans and platitudes.

There were surely worthwhile efforts made in this regard, but if this time the rhetoric is fascinating, we will nevertheless look into the substance of the speech and what we find there is incredible self-indulgence.

[*English*]

For example, Mr. Speaker, I shall quote again:

Let us recognize with pride and with modesty what so many strangers admire and see in us:

I think, Mr. Speaker, some of those fellows opposite must have been spending too much time watching the "Forsythe Saga".

The Address—Mr. Stanfield

I shall not go on and take the time to speculate concerning what these gawking strangers admire. I am sure there are many things, including the patience of the Canadian people confronted with such fatuity, such pomposity and such foolishness. But I must admit, Mr. Speaker, that the government did, quite unintentionally no doubt, liven up the speech quite a bit with such sparks of unintended humour and unpremeditated wit. But, when a government has aged as quickly as this one has, it is rather cruel to laugh.

The first reaction I had on reading the Speech from the Throne was that it must have been written by somebody who had received a Canada Council grant, but I very quickly came to the conclusion that the scale of asininity far surpassed anything that a Canada Council grant could possibly produce. Only an organization operating on the scale of the Prime Ministers' office could produce asininity on such a massive scale. I do not wish to sound ungrateful, sir, because this Speech from the Throne will long be treasured by those who appreciate absurdity on a grand scale. I am sure it surpasses anything in the past, and I am reasonably confident that we shall never see its like again.

• (12 noon)

Mr. Trudeau: Barring one.

Mr. Stanfield: Obviously, it was the work of a superlatively organized team, the greatest collection of fatuous, pompous and sententious writers ever assembled in this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: Of course, no personal offence is meant.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Stanfield: They seem to be getting stirred up a little. We have not really started yet.

Complacent in its language, the Speech is also complacent as to substance. It brushes off most contemptuously not only unemployment but the very thing the government is claiming to be fighting, inflation. The fight is virtually won in the latter case, it suggests, and as for unemployment, it does not seem to matter very much because as long as people are out of work this kindly government suggests it will look after them. Personally, I find this attitude worse than unacceptable; it is arrogant and it is cold. The complacency does not stop here, it runs through the speech like a thread.

I suggest that probably nowhere is there greater complacency expressed than with regard to agriculture. So far as fisheries are concerned, no doubt some of my colleagues will have something to say on the matter, but I doubt the subject is even mentioned. So far as agriculture is concerned the government says that the problem has been largely solved. There has been some improvement in the west; enough, I think to give some confi-