

the administrative services, but also of fighting inflation by putting a "ceiling" on government expenses.

On the other hand, it was decided that programs for regional economic expansion would receive funds, that the various branches of social programs for our needy citizens would be extended, that investments in support of education would be increased, while severe budgetary curbs were imposed in some areas such as transport, communications and government services in general.

At the end of his statement, the Prime Minister said:

I appeal in particular to the businessmen, the trade union members, those in public office, in short, all those who may exert a deep influence on the future of the economy.

I hope to have shown that we are doing our part, and I expect that they in turn will do theirs. I cannot imagine a better way, in the long run, to ensure the economic and social health of our country.

The Prime Minister of Canada has shown deep insight in the analysis of a most complex problem; he deserves our sympathetic regard for formulating very courageously a series of policies which are already proving fruitful. To fight inflation when some areas are abnormally hit by unemployment is not an easy proposition; there always looms the danger that a concerted trend, thus started, will acquire later on too much momentum in the opposite direction. It will therefore also be necessary to review periodically the progress made and if need be amend, again with as much courage, the current policies, in order not to allow an increase in unemployment, which tends to become chronic in some areas.

Moreover, it seems possible, in the light of recent events, that this will become necessary in the near future. It must be admitted that it is in the economic field, where men clash daily and where civilizations are put to test, that mankind will realize that the conflict can only be settled if people become aware of the endless and ever-widening necessity of a moral constraint.

This is probably what has seemingly prompted the fears shown in the Sixth Annual Report of the Economic Council of Canada.

Shortly after his explanations, the Prime Minister addressed himself on that subject directly to the Canadians and clearly and simply explained the dangers of inflation and the disastrous effects it would have in

Canada. Some people then voiced the wish to see and hear periodically the Prime Minister of Canada on television and radio, where he would set forth the problems of the country and outline possible solutions. I quite agree and I do hope that we will soon have in Canada regular fireside chats given by the Prime Minister on any current political and economic Canadian topic.

During the recovery period of the last great depression, President Roosevelt had been admirably effective with his own "Fireside Chats" which were an instant success and which helped to restore confidence in the future, to allay people's secret fears and to stimulate new and courageous efforts of the nation at large.

The Prime Minister's present determination allows us to expect that, in due time, he will be able to ensure the gradual slackening of imposed restrictions and limitations in such a way as not to create greater problems, namely, increased unemployment and deflation that could even lead to depression.

In the field of housing, the Throne Speech states the following:

...despite the difficulties of inflation, the objective is to construct one million housing units in five years.

This economic and social measure is most important for Canada. Besides providing low-cost houses for one million families of workers who will become owners, it will give jobs to a considerable number of workers in the construction field. It will also improve the employment situation in the building materials industry across the country. This humanitarian measure is most welcome because it was difficult to get the needed funds at reasonable rates. It will also contribute to the improvement of urban areas.

The Speech from the Throne refers to fiscal reforms. The lack of details makes it difficult to see what their extent will be. Therefore, I think we will have to wait for the bill to make appropriate comments.

The Throne Speech reminds us of the benefits derived from national unity, while reflecting an intense desire to build a strong and productive country, soundly equipped to face the future. This speech also states the Government's intention to defend every Canadian's rights and interests, and the Government's concern about the progress and development of the individual as two inseparable aspects of its mandate.

Many people have seen in it a message of hope, which heralds a concentrated effort

[Hon. Mr. Desruisseaux.]