

will not be satisfied with anything less than a full investigation into UIC and manpower.

It was encouraging to see so much of the Speech from the Throne devoted to agriculture. This has not happened in the past even though the leaders in the fruit and vegetable industry have over the years been predicting trouble. The former cheap food policy of the Liberal government, which relied on cheap food from other parts of the world, was headed for disaster. The prediction made at the time, that the beef growers would eventually be in trouble, even came true. Look at the situation they are in today. We have heard many of these proposals for agriculture before; let us hope something will be done, and done soon, and that at best these proposals will be long-term. Production cannot be increased in many agricultural fields overnight; it takes time.

The most significant part for the producer is for him to be provided with a return adequate to encourage production and to restore his confidence in long-term market opportunities. These proposals will have to be incorporated into legislation, otherwise farmers will completely lose faith. For instance, even though this government talks about helping farmers to increase supply, last year when I made a plea for assistance to help the cattle ranchers in my riding buy feed to tide them over the winter because of the drastic loss of feed due to an unprecedented drought, all that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) did was pay half of the support given by the provincial government, a mere \$15 per ton. Instead of putting up only \$7.50 a ton, he should have matched their offer or made it \$30 per ton. I am sure it would have helped the ranchers keep their basic herd intact, and this would have ensured an immediate upkeep of supply to be extended in future years.

The proposals in the Speech from the Throne with regard to transportation were particularly weak in light of what we in the opposition have been telling the government over the past year about the shortage of railway cars for many products in Canada. Producers of apples in the Okanagan Valley have lost a considerable number of sales of their product because of shortage of cars. Grain producers who have found themselves in similar circumstances are fortunate not to have lost their market or sales, although this is no excuse for keeping ships waiting in harbour to be loaded. This does not happen in the fruit industry. Producers from other areas, namely Washington state, can get cars to fill the vacuum. Thus we find an abundance of United States apples in eastern Canada while the B.C. producers have to divert good products to processors for less money. What a way to run a country!

It is well known that lumber mills have been continually plagued with car shortages to ship their products. The government must take a firm stand with the railways. This kind of performance cannot be tolerated if we are to continue to build Canada and retain a low unemployment rate.

No mention was made of legislation to ensure that veterans with overseas service will not be discriminated against when applying for their old age pension, as the minister promised. Because of this I have submitted a private member's bill which I hope this House will pass very quickly. It has been brought to my attention, and I

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believe rightly so, that retired armed service personnel were discriminated against when pensions were raised last year. I speak for those who have not reached the magical formula of 85, even though many of these people were forced to retire. Measures should certainly be taken to rectify this discrimination.

It is heartening to hear that the government intends to do something about equal rights for women. I firmly believe they should have the same rights as men. They should not have to form organizations to fight for those rights; their legitimate requests should have been granted. Here again, I am sure these women's organizations will not give up until they have obtained the status of equality which they seek. It is too bad they have had to go through the frustrating work and the efforts they have made in order to obtain these rights.

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I would be remiss if I did not bring to this House the feeling of many of my constituents regarding the lack of CBC outlets and adequate television coverage. Dealing first with television, unfortunately many areas in my constituency have at best borderline television. Although we live on or very close to the United States border, we just cannot get good Canadian television coverage. We are among the 5 per cent class who in Canada have poor or no reception, and although the minister responsible for the CBC keeps saying that money is to be spent to give us good television service, very little is done in my riding in this regard. These complaints are justified, and I hope we can get some action soon, rather than just promises.

Although there are three excellent private radio stations in the Okanagan Valley, we have been asking for years for a CBC outlet because we feel we should not be denied a public outlet when almost all of the rest of Canada has one. After all, we are helping to pay for CBC. Here again, although there has been much talk, correspondence and many petitions, we are only told to be patient and we will get extended coverage in time. This has been the case to the point that it is becoming increasingly frustrating. Many people who have moved to my riding to retire have been used to listening to CBC. We have a large population that wants such an outlet, and their request should not be denied.

One of the complaints I receive most frequently in my riding has to do with mail delivery service. I have been told by businessmen, and they have submitted proof, that since the assured mail program has come into existence the time it takes to receive a letter from Vancouver in the Okanagan has perhaps doubled. Every time I go on the open line program, and almost every day when I open my mail, I receive complaints about our postal services. I believe these complaints are justified; there appears in many instances to be an almost chaotic situation. I urge the Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet) to do whatever he can to solve this problem. There is no competition in respect of mail services, and the people are very aware of the situation; they know the service is operated by the federal government and is subsidized, and they therefore feel they should be able to obtain the services they deserve.