

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

as Liberals we believe they will be better pursued by a Liberal government than by a government made up of the opposition parties. I should like to discuss those goals under four headings, Mr. Speaker.

The first covers the place the individual should occupy in society, the second involved economic facts, the third groups a series of programs and objectives concerning political rights and the rights of Parliament and the fourth is related to national unity.

Let us start first with the rights of the individual—economic as well as social rights—which constitute a kind of charter of economic rights that is outlined in the Speech from the Throne and is based on this liberal philosophy according to which, in an orderly society, we are each other's co-insurers, all required to come to the aid of other members of the society who are in need, who are less favored. We are co-insurers, by way of taxation or otherwise, of certain fundamental rights that we want to make available to all individuals in our society. Without getting into details, Mr. Speaker, I think it would be fair to state that one of the most fundamental rights is the entitlement to hospital and health care, and in this field, projects and programs have already been well outlined in the past, mostly by Liberal governments.

In future, since such rights are being exercised jointly with the provinces, the aim will be to make sure that the costs remain under control and, above all, that such rights generate a situation where health services prove more accessible, more efficient and less costly. Already the Speech from the Throne points to appropriate meetings and no doubt we shall have policies to announce to parliament during this session.

Another basic right in a society that believes in equality for individuals is the right to an education. Mr. Speaker, people know that the matter fundamentally comes under provincial jurisdiction, but this did not prevent a federal government, and a Liberal government, that of the late Right Hon. Lester Pearson—and I believe that this happened essentially when the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) was Minister of Finance—found a formula which allowed the federal government to massively contribute to post-secondary and post-graduate education. In 1967-68, that contribution was about \$420 million; in 1972-73, the figure will reach about \$1 billion.

And there again, Mr. Speaker, the point will be to come to an understanding with the provinces in order to ensure that in a society that has faith in equality of opportunity, such right pertaining to the individual be set forth both with due respect to our constitution and expected to benefit those who seek an education.

A third area where our government is providing initiatives is that of legal aid, and I believe that hon. members have witnessed the fact only a few days ago on announcement of some agreements being signed by the federal government and the provincial governments of Quebec and British Columbia aimed at finding a formula that would allow the federal government to share the costs of legal aid in criminal proceedings, in order to ease the burden of the provinces in that area and encourage them in the field of civil law—which falls under their jurisdiction—to take the necessary steps to ensure that all individuals have equal access to legal aid.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Housing is another area, Mr. Speaker, where our record is commendable. In fact, the building of over one million housing units was undertaken in the last five years, which is considerably more than those built in the previous five years. However, the point which should attract our attention, Mr. Speaker, is that 85 per cent of the federal funds are spent on housing for the aged and low income people. I think this is a revolutionary re-alignment of our priorities and that, here again, the Liberal government intends to indicate at a federal-provincial conference to be held very soon how it wants to set new structures in the field of housing, preservation of urban communities, restoration of that sense of the community. Here is another reason, Mr. Speaker, why this government wanted to meet the deadline, wanted to set up a policy to the benefit of the individual.

The last of the examples I wanted to give has to do with income security. Several paragraphs of the Speech from the Throne indicate how we want to approach this problem. There is, Mr. Speaker, a concern not only to co-operate with the provinces but also to get a new rationale, a new cohesion behind this mass of programs dealing with the issue of income security. Generally speaking, Mr. Speaker, it is a question of ensuring that the two kinds of programs are well integrated, those dealing with individuals able to work and those dealing with individuals unable to work. And by maintaining the differentiation between those two groups through logical and coherent programs, we hope to finally evolve a society in which those who can actually work within the framework of minimum-wage schemes, unemployment insurance plans, LIP and Opportunities for Youth programs may prove to be useful to society and thus earn a profitable income, whereas, with regard to those who cannot work, programs such as family allowances, old age pensions, additional benefits to needy senior citizens and social welfare programs are integrated in such a way, like I said earlier, as to encourage those able to work to stay in employment while making sure that those who cannot will not be forsaken by this society.

[English]

The second group of policies which have to do with our goals for the 1970's are those which can be described under the general heading of the national economy. The Minister of Finance and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gillespie) will be speaking on these subjects. Indeed, there are about a dozen measures enumerated in the Speech from the Throne which, "will contribute to the development and elaboration of a coherent set of industrial policies for Canada." I will not elaborate on them now, Mr. Speaker. The ministers will have occasion to do so.

• (1650)

I just want to repeat that it has been this government's practice in the past not merely to bring in policies which would increase growth, increase the quantity of goods in our society, but to have policies which would co-ordinate other priorities, priorities in the area of equality, of the quality of life, preservation of the environment, domestic control of the economic environment, the necessity for regionalism, the strengthening of less developed regions,