

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

taken a step which no other government, provincial or federal, has ever taken in this country. As a matter of fact, in 1957 the then leader of the C.C.F. party, Mr. Coldwell, moved an amendment which called upon the government to give immediate effect to the social and economic planning necessary to cope with certain problems. The amendment set out what those problems were—inflation, rapidly rising unemployment and other serious matters. Each and every member of the Liberal party at that time voted against the amendment. The speech from the throne indicates that today a new kind of philosophic and theoretical planning has become the essential program of the Liberal party, the theme being that the government knows best. If carried into effect by one or two of the ministers sitting over there—and by one who would have been a member but for the fact that the leader of the New Democratic party was successful in that constituency—the philosophy of hon. gentlemen opposite is a philosophy of planning, a philosophy of placing control in the hands of a few bureaucratic individuals who, unless circumscribed by protective measures in the legislation, will bring about in our country government by a bureaucratic autocracy.

It is most interesting to see these developments. What are the promises which were made? We know, now, that there is to be a dominion-provincial conference. The reason we know that, and knew it when we came here today, is because it was announced outside the House of Commons by Premier Robichaud on Friday last. Where is the plan announced by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Laing)? He went to Vancouver and announced that great plan on behalf of this government. Ten thousand scholarships were going to be brought into effect at once. He said there was a tremendous plan to assist in relieving unemployment. Is that going to be brought in? Has there been any consent from, or consultation with, any of the provinces yet? Has the premier of Quebec agreed to this?

What of the promises in 1962 and 1963 on the part of the Prime Minister in respect of all of these programs? These joint programs were going to be done away with. They were dangerous to confederation. They were going to be removed. Yet in the face of that promise we now have on the part of the minister of northern affairs a complete recital of a new plan. I ask, has that received the approval, the consent, the consideration of any of the provinces?

Then they were going to abolish these joint plans. An amendment is being brought in to the Trans-Canada Highway Act whereby, according to statements in the press, 90 per

cent of the cost will be made available by the federal government. Premier Robichaud dealt with that. Is this the way in which the government that mocked joint planning, and which is now in a position to implement it, is carrying out their promise?

Then there was the medicare plan. What language was used in Saskatchewan against that plan. Has the Liberal leader in Saskatchewan been consulted in this connection? He said that there was nothing more dangerous than the medicare plan. What has happened to that? Mr. Kent is reported to have said that this would be one of those things to be introduced within 60 days. Of course, Mr. Kent is "up above". The others are "down below". I ask, what of the medicare plan? What of the plan to assist portable pensions? These were all matters which were discussed. These were matters of instant moment. We in this party came out in favour of action in this regard. We believe it is necessary that the federal parliament pass the necessary complementary legislation so that this proposal respecting a pension may be made effective in cases in which the provinces, under their own jurisdiction, have brought this plan into effect. I ask, what of these things? I believe that action must be taken along this line.

I am glad to see that those opposite today believe in technical training and the expansion of technical schools. The hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr), when minister of labour, brought this question before the house. We brought into effect one of the greatest plans of expansion of technical education in Canada to be found anywhere in the western world. As a result of that action \$300 million is being made available to the provinces. Some 135,000 young Canadians will receive training each year. This is to be expanded. I should like the Prime Minister to give some indication as to his plans when he speaks, and whether he means to put flesh and blood on the skeleton of the promises which were made.

What about university assistance, aside from the scholarship plan? We were criticized very harshly, even though we were able to arrive at a plan acceptable to the province of Quebec, for extending the amount of assistance to universities by raising the amount from \$1 to \$1.50 and then \$2. What is going to be done about that? It was said during the election that this matter would receive attention. The minister of northern affairs apparently placed some credence in those promises. I should like to ask the Prime Minister to indicate now what is going to be done. Has he received permission? Has he received consent? What provinces have been consulted?

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]