

The Address—Mr. Hales

So long, however, as Canadians who desire work are unable to find it; so long as persons on fixed incomes are unable to provide adequately for themselves and their dependants; then so long must the government strive to assist them.

There are some other "dandy" statements in the speech. It goes on to say:

An economy that is in need of adjustment; a society beset by a variety of tensions; an environment that has been abused and degraded; an international community that is under intense pressures—these are the problems that demand our urgent attention.

They certainly demand our urgent attention. The statement I am about to read is hardly appropriate under present circumstances, considering that the War Measures Act has been invoked:

A society is said to be judged best by the compassion and the fairness with which it treats those of its members who breach or are accused of breaching the norms of conduct which it establishes for itself. The Canadian record in this respect is of a high standard—

I am afraid that we shall all have to back-peddle with regard to that statement. I wanted to compare the Speech from the Throne that I had the privilege of hearing when first elected with the speech now being debated. It is always easy to criticize and it is much harder to be constructive. From now on I propose to be somewhat constructive.

I am at a loss to know why the Speech from the Throne did not deal with the results of some of the many trips which members of the House have taken. Let me begin with the Prime Minister, who went to the Far East. He visited Japan and Tokyo and had a ride on that great Tokaido express, sometimes known as the Bullet train, which it was my privilege to ride on with a group of parliamentarians when we visited Japan in June. I was amazed at the rapidity of that train and at its cleanliness and smoothness. We went from Tokyo to Osaka, a distance of about 300 miles, in a little over three hours, travelling at 135 miles an hour. I wonder why the Speech from the Throne has not mentioned the subject of transportation in this great country of ours. Why did the Speech from the Throne not lay down a long-term program for transportation in Canada?

Let us get away from the ad hoc development we have seen in this area and the curtailment of transportation services which has been discussed in the House so ably by the hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo (Mr. Howe) and the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle). They spoke of the curtailment of transportation services, and particularly of the fact that the CNR has been discontinuing passenger train service. The hon. member for Bruce (Mr. Whicher) told us yesterday that in the great area north of Guelph, a city that I represent in this House, an area encompassing Owen Sound, Mildmay, Walkerton and other centres, the railway has discontinued its passenger train service. The people in that area are without passenger train service.

It seems to me that this government intends to increase our urban sprawl by developing the larger centres instead of trying to spread out the population and devel-

[Mr. Hales.]

op some of the rural areas of the country. Actually, we in Guelph have not too much to complain about, because the railways left alone the train service between Guelph and Toronto—at least, they left us the commuter train. It is to remain in service for a year at least, and then the matter will be reviewed. If the railways do not improve the quality of the coaches and do not give the people the type of service they expect, they will find that people will not want to use their trains. There is no reason why that commuter train should not be staffed with a stewardess in the morning who could deliver the morning newspaper to commuters so that they could read the morning news. There is no reason why they should not serve coffee on the train, why it should not be clean and why the windows should not be clean enough for one to look out of them. If the railways continue to display the attitude: "Well, we do not want any passenger business; we want to get rid of it," then, in future they will wish to discontinue operating this one commuter train between Guelph and Toronto.

May I refer again to the broad question of our transportation problems. I should have thought that the government, in the Speech from the Throne, would have been wise to say: Look, to begin with we are embarking on a 15-year program under which we will build a railway line from Montreal to Windsor, and the service to be provided is to be similar to that provided by the rapid Bullet train of Japan. During the first years of the program the crossings could be removed, and then subsequently station platforms could be elevated so that people would be able to step off the train onto a platform. No steps would be needed for one to get on or off trains. The equipment would then be planned and developed. We would then have a train that could travel between Montreal and Windsor in three hours.

● (12:40 p.m.)

It would have been better to buy some of the sub-marginal land around Kingston, a solid rock area, and establish a large international airport there to handle the jumbo jets. Passengers leaving the jumbo jets could then take the Torpedo train, arriving in either Montreal or Toronto in an hour's time. Vision and foresight of this kind are required with regard to the over-all transportation system of Canada, but this is not in the Speech from the Throne.

We must bear in mind that the density of population between Montreal and Windsor is in the southern part of the country. Surely there are enough people in this area to support a train similar to the one I had the privilege of travelling on in Japan. If this nation is going to develop, grow and progress we need more forward planning than what we have at the present time.

The first Speech from the Throne to which I referred dealt with the Roads to Resources program, how we would develop the Arctic, the northern part of Canada.

An hon. Member: And we did.

Mr. Hales: We did. At the time we were criticized for speaking about roads from igloo to igloo. We no longer