

*The Address—Mr. Coates*

win the honours which are available to them. I believe our Olympic team generally did very well considering the size of this nation, and we should be proud of them; but I think we could do even better in the future if we placed greater emphasis on providing the necessary facilities and coaching personnel for our young people in Canada.

In conclusion I should just like to say a few things about the crime rate in Canada and the problem facing our penal authorities. I feel a degree of concern about the substantial increase in the crime rate in this country. I feel that this, in part, can be associated with the intensive investigation being carried out in the United States at the present time into organized crime. I think a lot of the organized crime in the United States, rather than going underground, is moving into our major cities in Canada. I think one of the best examples of this is the recent capture by the R.C.M.P. of individuals carrying large amounts of heroin. This to me is just one of many examples of an increase in the type of organized crime which has got such a stranglehold on the major cities in the United States today. I have questioned the Minister of Justice about this in the house because I would like to know, as I am sure most Canadians would like to know, just how intensive the work of the R.C.M.P. has become with regard to the detection of organized crime of this type moving into this country.

I noted in Saturday's edition of one of the Ottawa papers that the commissioner of penitentiaries had stated:

A record increase in Canada's penitentiary population has been recorded in the past five months.

Since September, the inmate total has gone up 550 to more than 7,500, an all time high boost for such a short period.

Mr. MacLeod stated that the increase was substantial in the 18-25 age group. He also stated that there was a big prison building program under way but that it would be 15 to 18 months before the necessary facilities for the penitentiary population were provided.

In this regard I should like to say that I know the government has reached the point where it feels it can go forward with the construction of a medium security penal institution in Springhill. It is close on two years now since I first announced that this penitentiary would be built in the Springhill area. It would have been started last year except for the fact that this government did not like the architects which the former government apparently considered satisfactory. They fired them without notice, and paid a new firm an amount in excess of that which would have been payable to the architects already appointed. Not only did they waste

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the taxpayers' money, but they held up the construction of this institution by a year. I might point out, too, that they held it up in an area of high unemployment which has been struck by one disaster after another. By its action the government has curtailed employment which would and should have been available to these people, people who deserve at least a job after all they have gone through in the past.

I hope more than anything else that this government will come forward with agricultural legislation, a definite grain policy for eastern Canada which will be of benefit to our farmers. I hope they will do it soon. I certainly hope that before this session ends there will be an amendment proposed to the Atlantic development board legislation which will provide that board with \$1 billion, enough money for it to undertake any project which might be considered advisable in the Atlantic region. This would have a profound effect on the livelihood of our people.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gerard Perron (Beauce):** Mr. Speaker, my opening remarks will be to congratulate the mover of the address in reply to the speech from the throne (Mr. Cote, Longueuil) for his virtues, his qualities and his talent as a speaker. At times he almost convinced us that the speech from the throne contained everything that was needed to settle the problems of Canadians.

But after reading the speech from the throne we notice that the hon. member for Longueuil had added a lot to it, and that is why our enthusiasm, after his speech, gradually subsided as we read the speech from the throne.

In actual fact, we were served warmed over material, and thus we can see how much the enthusiasm of our friends opposite, after the victory of April 8 last, has fallen off. As a matter of fact, the same gentlemen who were to settle the numerous and complex problems facing the whole country have brought forward no solution at all.

These last few days, on this side of the house and on the other side, as well as in every quarter, appeals have been made for national unity. Reference has been made to the immediate solution which should be found, to short term plans, to long term plans and meanwhile, nothing is being settled.

On the other hand, those who, last year, sat on government benches seem to have found all the solutions required to solve the problems. In fact, in an endeavour to settle the problem of national unity, the illusion was given to Canadians and more particularly to French Canadians in Quebec, that