

The Address—Mr. Symes

make a special study of rising food prices. But let this committee not merely investigate the problem; give it the power to take action, because action is needed now.

Action is also needed in the area of corporate tax reform. However, the Speech from the Throne indicates that the government will pursue its earlier policy of more tax concessions and write-offs to large corporations, mostly foreign-owned. How in the name of social justice can this government rationalize examples such as International Nickel which, despite a clear profit of \$94,200,000 in 1971, paid not one cent of federal income tax and laid off 2,000 workers? When INCO, in the period 1966-1971 did pay income tax, it did so at a rate of 17.2 per cent while the average citizen of Sudbury was paying at a rate of 25 per cent. Such inequities cannot be rationalized on economic grounds but only on the basis of political expediency, for in the words of a Liberal fund raiser the Liberal party for many years has depended upon Canada's 95 largest corporations for meeting its election expenses. It would seem that if there is one lesson the Liberals have yet to learn it is that the Canadian electorate wants, and deserves, a fair tax system.

The throne speech indicates that the government intends to give aid to small businesses. This is needed and timely legislation, especially with the current trend toward monopolistic and unfair competition practices by big business. On the other hand, I search in vain for any indication of the government's intention to institute a comprehensive labour policy to cope with future problems of technological change and automation. It is bad enough that Canadians cannot find jobs, but what future does the working man have when technological change replaces him by a machine? Long range study and planning among government, business and labour is required if our economy is to have a healthy future.

It is to the future of the economy and Canada that I now wish to turn. I would caution this House that we do not become so engrossed with contemporary problems that we ignore the two-fold crisis that is descending upon us as a nation. Canada is faced with the threat of external control and internal break-up. We lament Canada's perennial problem of unemployment, and governments take short-term measures to try and reduce it. Yet I submit, Mr. Speaker, that we shall never rid this country of high unemployment until we retain control of our national economy.

I need not detail the degree of foreign domination of our economy, as I am sure the members of this House are familiar with the statistics on foreign ownership, which vary anywhere from 50 per cent to 99 per cent, as in the case of the petroleum industry. Earlier, Mr. Speaker, you heard me declare that northern Ontario has a "hewer of wood and drawer of water" economy. Much of Canada's economy can be described in such a manner. Foreign controlled companies have perpetuated the resource-based nature of our economy. Our resources—oil, gas, minerals, forest and water—are exploited, in the process of creating jobs. But the greatest number of jobs are found where the raw materials are processed and manufactured, and that is now outside the country. To make jobs in Canada the processing must be done in Canada.

[Mr. Symes.]

As long as foreign interests make the decisions we will never get these jobs.

Royal commissions have recognized this. Government reports have recognized this. Indeed, even the Prime Minister has recognized this. If only he would practice what he has preached. I quote from the May 1958 edition of *Cité Libre*, wherein the Prime Minister stated:

Even if this government—

That is the United States government.

—had been well disposed towards our industries, that would change nothing in the decisions taken abroad by mother-companies, in accordance with their own profits and not with the welfare of the Canadian worker . . . in the key sectors of the Canadian economy, non-residents are in a position to take decisions contrary to the well-being of Canadians.

Foreigners will decide if our oil wells are to be worked or closed, if our ore is to be transformed here or elsewhere, if our factories are to be automated or not, if our products are to be put on the world market or not, or if our workers are to be free to exercise their right of association or not. Foreigners will decide . . . and will collect the profits.

• (1640)

Yet to this day foreigners are still making the decisions and collecting the profits. Time after time the government has examined the problem but failed to act in a significant manner—witness the fate of the Watkins and Gray reports. The legislation referred to in the Speech from the Throne is only a token gesture which will do little to bring Canada's economy back to Canadians.

The time has come, on this issue, not for political expediency, but for political courage. What is at stake is the very future of Canada, her survival as a sovereign nation. In the words of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) himself, "political domination and economic domination are inextricably tied together".

The future of Canada is also threatened by internal pressures. French and English speaking Canadians seem to be drifting farther apart. The English-speaking majority grow resentful at Quebec asserting her rights, and the French-speaking segment of the population grows increasingly sceptical that English Canadians are serious about supporting bilingualism and biculturalism.

The roots of our misunderstanding lie in our past. The fall of Quebec in 1760 is referred to by English Canadians as the conquest, but this term is a misnomer. The French may have been defeated, but they were never conquered. The British, after their attempts to assimilate the French in 1763 and 1840, finally learned this. It would seem that many English-speaking Canadians, with their majority versus minority syndrome, have yet to learn this lesson.

When we strive to analyze the origins of our confederation we find that it was a reluctant union. This reluctance was based not only on linguistic and cultural differences, but regional ones as well—as witnessed by Prince Edward Island celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of its entry into confederation this year and not in 1967.

Professor J. C. Bonenfant has observed the following:

The great majority of nations have been formed not by people who desired intensely to live together, but rather by people who could not live separately.