

The Address—Mr. Knowles

financial assistance to vocational training for a period of ten years. Furthermore, the prime minister of New Brunswick has already announced that a technical school will be built in the area.

The scheme provides also for a better use of lands, the purchase and reforestation of non-productive farms, the development of fertile farms and the opportunity for rural population to move closer to areas that offer better employment opportunities.

This is then, Mr. Speaker, a scheme both complete and complex, a scheme that will require the mobilization of a great number of experts and specialists and especially the enlistment of all the people's interest, support and dynamism.

It means all-out war against poverty, war where escalation is not only allowed but desirable. Such general mobilization cannot be accomplished overnight. However, if the people are to be patient, it is normal that the government be required to show diligence.

I am told that the three federal deputy ministers who are to be members of the special steering committee provided for in the agreement have already been appointed. The federal and the provincial directors will be appointed shortly. I must emphasize the importance of choosing competent and dynamic directors who know the area well. These two directors will become the real leaders of the program. Finally, the greater part of the burden, the initiative and the achievement will rest on their shoulders.

All the people concerned in that area will be pleased to learn that the services of the internationally known Canadian company Kates, Peat and Marwick, of Montreal, have been retained for programming the undertaking.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding I must repeat that this special development program brings hope to the people of that pilot area. It will give our people an outstanding opportunity to increase their income, get caught up in their education, improve their living conditions and share fully in the affluence of our country. Moreover, the awakening of that wealth which now lies dormant will enrich the whole nation.

[*English*]

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, there are some things in the speech from the throne that I like. I realize that that is a form of heresy when it is uttered by a member on the opposition side of the house, but I should like to assure you that

[Mr. Dubé.]

I will recant the heresy before I sit down. However, may I take a moment or two to underline my suggestion that there are things in this session's speech from the throne that are welcome.

I like its tendency to look to the future and to be concerned about some of the tremendous problems that will face this country and mankind in the decades and in the century that are ahead of us. I like the reference to our needing to be concerned with our Canadian quality of life. I like the concern about our cities, on which the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Macaluso) expanded in his speech today. I like the suggestion that the time will come when we must do something to remedy the pollution of our air and water. I am impressed with the suggestion that we harness the miracle of modern science to make a better life for the people of Canada and for those around the world. I was pleased to hear the Prime Minister expand on the idea of a guaranteed annual income for all our people. It was significant that he said the other day that the time might well come when every family—indeed, every person—would have a guaranteed annual income. In other words, we may come to the point where we divorce the right to live, the right to an income, the right to enjoy the things our society can produce, from work as we have known it over the centuries.

● (3:50 p.m.)

These ideas are good, but the events they envisage will face us so quickly that we ought not to regard them as occurring in the year 2000 or 2067. We are living in times of explosive, catastrophic change, and unless we act decisively we may find, instead of enjoying a golden age, that we will be living in some kind of computerized brave new world which has no concern for the individuals in it.

I welcome the forward-looking note that is in the speech from the throne but I wish to recant from the heresy of an opposition member finding good in the government's speech from the throne by stating two serious qualifications.

First, there was more truth than jest in the Prime Minister's reference the other day to his tendency to want to look into things. He referred to this tendency as though we ought to praise him for it. Yes, it is good to look into things, but it is not good enough for a government to do only that, and the trouble with this government is that that is all it does. Problems are crowding in on us and we must act now. It is good to look into the