

the Throne—only spend, spend, spend. Indeed, we might be in the sunny climate of Italy so far as our financial outlook is concerned. The Speech from the Throne makes no reference to our difficulties in that regard, and yet I submit to this house that that is one of the most important things, if not the most important thing, which faces this country today.

There is nothing more to be feared than a depreciation in the value of our currency. If we go on with deficits as we have been and if we go on with the free spending, not only here but in our provinces and elsewhere, then I think it is inevitable that we shall have a currency expansion, and once we get on that slippery slope—and we are now teetering on the edge—it is a very difficult matter to stop sliding.

My honourable friend, the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) shakes his head. I repeat, if we continue as we have been doing what other answer is there? The Government must pay its bills. I fancy that if any of us failed to get our indemnity cheque at the end of the month we would want to know what had happened. I do not think there is much doubt about that. The Government must pay its bills. As I said earlier, the federal Government cannot go broke, in the critical sense, but the people may suffer disastrously in the end if the Government's policies are not wise and sound.

I think I have talked long enough, honourable senators, but there is one other matter I should like to mention and that is that this program—and in this I certainly do not want to be unfair—seems to indicate that we shall have an election within the next year. I am not criticizing the Government particularly because, unfortunately, the same thing is to some extent found in other political parties today; but there is this attitude that if you are going to win public support you must hand out favours to the public. I do not believe in that and I make no bones about saying so. I think the responsibility is upon the members of Parliament in this and in the other house so to manage the business affairs of this country that our people have a chance to work, to save, and to prosper, and that we should not try to win their support by these dubious means.

There is no doubt in my mind that the 1958 election which Mr. Diefenbaker could have won without making a single promise was an unfortunate occurrence for this country. This theory that it is necessary to spend public money to win the support of the electorate certainly is a dangerous one, and I would like to register my protest against it, and I care not who is criticized by my saying that.

Honourable senators, five years from now we will celebrate the centenary of Confederation. Those of us who are familiar with the conditions which existed between Ontario and Quebec 100 years ago realize very fully indeed the tremendous task that the Fathers of Confederation faced when they finally met in Quebec to agree on the resolutions that formed the basis of our Constitution. That was a time when political differences were perhaps stronger and more fierce than they have ever been since. Yet, the Fathers of Confederation were big enough men to forget all this for the time being, and to meet together and finally bring into effect the Constitution under which we have worked for 95 years.

That was a tremendous achievement, but today, make no mistake about it, the country is facing very grave problems. Not only is the international situation bad; there are matters as to the Common Market—about which I would have liked to have said something, but which time forbids—and many other things, which place us in a very grave position with respect to the world. What the outcome will be no one knows, but I submit to this house that the first and primary duty of every member of every Parliament in Canada is to conduct our affairs and business so that we may build strength into our country, so that we may build unity into our country, and so that Canada will come to be recognized throughout the world as one of the best instances of the freedom we talk so much about but often do so little about.

Hon. Mr. Horner: Honourable senators, I would like to ask the honourable senator a question. He mentioned the Columbia River situation. Would he care to answer as to what he would do in that situation, or as to which party is right?

Hon. Mr. Reid: I will answer that later on.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: I have my views about the Columbia River situation which I shall be very glad to give. I do not know whether they will be of interest to the public, but I shall be very glad to give them to my honourable friend privately.

On motion of Hon. Mrs. Irvine, debate adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Honourable senators, I hope that tomorrow we will be able to commence dealing with the supplementary estimates, but that will depend upon the progress made in the other place. The business on the Order Paper today is now completed.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.