

*The Address—Mr. Hogarth*

progressive legislation. Some of it will probably be the most progressive legislation that this nation has ever seen. We have changed some of the rules of this institution. Putting the emphasis on committee work has given far greater scope to individual members of parliament than they had before to do a more effective job.

We have also changed some aspects of the criminal law which were long overdue for change. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) and the Solicitor General (Mr. McIlraith) are to be congratulated on the omnibus bill they presented to the house during the last session.

Some of the decisions that have been made have taken courage. The decision to exchange ambassadors with the Vatican took courage, though I personally do not agree with what was done. The introduction of the bilingualism bill took courage and shows that the government is capable of exercising courage when required to do so.

We have also moved toward a more suitable constitution for the country, another change long overdue. We all look forward to a new constitution within our time. We have a new, progressive Indian policy which will lift these people up and fit them into society to take the rightful position they so much deserve. We are also doing something about regional development. I note from the Speech from the Throne that the government is considering future policy in depth and hopes to meet the coming challenge of the post-industrial era.

After a little dynamite and shotgunning from the back benches, the government has made a declaration of Arctic sovereignty, probably the first nationalistic step that this country has taken in a number of years. So, taken all in all, I think that we have made good progress.

But if I were to give my speech a theme, I should like to say that I do not think we have moved either fast or far enough, and that I am not so sure that we are always moving in the right direction. We know we are living in a rapidly changing society, one that is changing in many ways. The hon. member for York West (Mr. Givens), in his splendid address last night, showed the house how we are changing to an urbanized society from a rural one.

We are also changing in our private lives. We are changing from the static authoritarianism of the past to the humanism of today. No longer will people permit their lives to be controlled by dogmatic and institutionally

imposed ethical and moral concepts. The ethical and moral evaluations of modern western man are more and more becoming matters of individual choice, rather than the submissive acceptance of the dictates of religion and government.

Although there are good aspects about this change, there are also bad aspects. Where the good aspects lie are in the fact that man is freer to seek the free expression of his unique personality, the process that psychologists tell us is one of self-realization. The bad aspects result in permissiveness, escapism, alienation from purpose, lack of social responsibility, and refusal to sacrifice for the common good. These evils result in disrespect for authority and for the institutions it represents, of which parliament is one. People are impatient for change.

One bad aspect of humanism is that in many instances people have contempt for law and order and show violence in their expression of dissent. Another bad aspect of humanism is the nihilism and escapism which is symptomized by the common use of drugs in our society today. There is an undue emphasis on pornography and obscenity in the arts and cultural media. It seems that this results in a world in which everybody is out for themselves, and this reflects itself in many of our labour disputes where there is complete contempt for responsibility and the innocent victims of mass strikes.

Politicians at all levels of government must be aware of this changing scene. They must be aware of its good and of its evils. The real challenge that is facing us today as responsible politicians is to be able to recognize the nature of this changing world, to be able to see its true meaning and its essence. In drafting our laws and our legislative programs we must suit the society for which they are designed and provide good government.

There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that this takes a certain amount of political genius. A reformer in a static society has a relatively easy job to do. But in the volatile boiling pot of the western world, and particularly Canada which is cursed with historical fractionalism, with geographic, ethnic and religious differences and with a residual of authoritarianism, it is a very tough job.

There are one or two aspects of the Speech from the Throne that would lead me to believe that perhaps we have not seen this challenge to which I refer in its proper light. Mention is made of the unrest among our young people, with which we are all concerned. This is a symptom of the transition of