

*The Address—Mr. Payne*

people out there had their say in the matter and a Liberal was not returned from Coast-Capilano.

To turn to the details of the speech from the throne, the hon. member for Welland (Mr. McMillan) had a great deal to say to the house the other day as to his lack of faith, belief and confidence in the value of public works but in the next breath he belied his statement because he came forward with the greatest list of public works for Welland that has ever been presented to the house. He seems to have seen the vision after 22 years. The electors of Coast-Capilano sincerely confirm the belief that Conservatives in the house and elsewhere have in the value of public works to develop the capital plant of Canada and at the same time put money in the hands of men who are out of work.

Little has been said by our friends to my right with regard to the National Housing Act. Our north shore area is basically an area of homes. I can assure you that prior to June 10 last a new record low for housing starts had been established, and the figure had been going downhill fast for a period of eight months in the municipality of West Vancouver, the municipality of North Vancouver and the city of North Vancouver itself. Until the 15th of June of last year building starts in those three communities were less than they had been in a 10-year period. Last October, and continuing every month since, building starts in those three communities established an all-time record, not for one month but for each month up to date.

Referring again to the fact that the Liberals feel this government is a one-man operation, I should like to draw to their attention the activities of our beloved hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green), the Minister of Public Works. During the course of the last two election campaigns I have found myself in a rather unique position in that I have been facing a problem which is of great consequence not only to British Columbia but the whole of Canada. Reference has been made earlier in this debate to this problem by the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond (Mr. Drysdale), that is the problem of fish versus power. I trust it is our intention, indeed I am sure we will make it so, to divorce the problem of fish versus power on the west coast from the fuzzy-headed histrionics with which it has been connected for the past 22 years. This has been illustrated by a gallant man standing at the bridge, like Horatius, and stating "The Fraser forever for fish". I am not one who advocates the creation of dams and the end of the fishing industry, but I do say it is high time proper studies, with practical tests were undertaken to solve this problem, as solved it can and must be.

[Mr. Payne.]

For many decades past, and certainly for the 22 years of the late administration, this issue has become more complex and the vying parties have become more violent. No real effort has been made to solve the problem and bring to the people of the west coast both power and fish. Practical tests have never been made in Canada of the creation of artificial spawning beds or artificial spawning itself has never been attempted. These things have been done by others, and I believe a solution of this problem could be reached within a maximum period of 10 years, if the solution were pursued with an open mind. Then the west coast would benefit by having both power and fish. I trust that we will learn a lesson from the lamentable showing, the grossly narrow outlook of the former administration in connection with this matter of fish and power.

The people of Coast-Capilano, and certainly the many veterans living on the Sechelt peninsula, will welcome with great enthusiasm the establishment of a standing committee on veterans' affairs. This move will result in continuity in dealing with the many pressing problems of the veterans, and avoid the lapsing of the committee and the resultant lack of continuity in dealing with problems every time this house is adjourned. In this connection I should like to direct special attention to the problem of the merchant seamen who saw service during the last war in areas which were under enemy attack. During their service many of these seamen were not only wounded but were taken prisoners of war. I should like to refer to a number of specific cases who spent at least three years in prisoner-of-war camps and who are not entitled to hospitalization under the veterans' legislation.

The other day a small point was mentioned by one hon. member on the Liberal benches. I do not want you to think I regard the former administration in a wholly unfavourable light. The hon. member referred to barbiturates or, as I believe he termed it, goofballs. This is not a problem which has come directly to my attention, but it is a problem of mounting seriousness in Canada today. This problem is closely allied, as he so well pointed out, to the tragic situation of those citizens who have fallen before the pressures of modern-day living, have availed themselves of the solace of narcotics, and wound up in the tragedy of drug addiction. I trust that the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Monteith) in considering the national health scheme has been keeping in mind this vitally important matter as well as taking cognizance of the need for further study throughout Canada of mental health. In saying this I am not trying to magnify