

*The Address—Mr. Fairey*

As to the proposed program of the government, it seems to me to be comprehensive and to provide for all the inadequacies of previous legislation. The program, I suggest, is a broad one, and when fully implemented will give general satisfaction. On the domestic scene there seems to be something for everyone who has a just and reasonable claim for government assistance. Once again our security program is well balanced and integrated.

Further afield it may be noted that the government continues to take a firm stand, along with other free nations in the world, with respect to our commitments as a member of the United Nations Organization, and also in connection with the vexed question of the inclusion of Germany in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

While I have no intention of singing the praise of the government for all the measures proposed in the address, I do wish to comment on one or two of them. One is the question of the rearmament of Germany. In common with all hon. members in this house I am opposed to the rearmament of Germany or any other nation, including ourselves. Any sensible person who has any knowledge of war and its consequences can take no other stand. But I do believe that if we are looking toward the perfect world envisioned by the Saviour, then it must be reached by progressive steps; and one of those steps is to make sure that those who do not agree with our point of view are prevented from taking any aggressive measure which would negate the progress which has already been made.

In my view there is justification for the calculated risk; and under the present circumstances, having calculated the risk, I feel we have no alternative but to accept the view of the government, in concert with our western allies, and agree to what appears to be the lesser risk by including West Germany in the defensive alliance.

I have mentioned the progress already made. In this connection I wish to emphasize the great and growing influence of Canada as a world power. This is really a unique position for a country so young as ours and one which is due, I think, to the confidence other nations have in the government of this country and its great leader, the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent).

If I may indulge in a little flattery and select one of his cabinet ministers I would mention our Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson). How he manages to carry the great burdens of his office and still maintain such a buoyant personality is beyond me, but I have no doubt he draws on the Prime Minister's inexhaustible store

of energy. In any event I am sure they have not only the admiration but the gratitude of all Canadians.

We have also been served very well this summer at the United Nations by our delegation. To his well known gift of persuasive and polished speech the vice-chairman of that delegation added a remarkable skill in the drafting of difficult resolutions, and I am sure the prestige of Canada did not suffer by the contribution of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin).

In turning to one or two of the items mentioned in the address, may I say I am delighted to learn that the act concerning disabled persons has been proclaimed. It remains only for the provinces to arrange administrative machinery at the local level to make effective this most desirable and helpful measure.

Now I come to a very vexed question. I wonder whether I dare mention war veterans allowances, because I am considered somewhat of a rebel in this regard. It might be thought appropriate if the discussion on this question were deferred until the amendments are brought before the house by the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Lapointe) but I am going to mention it now because I have some suggestions to make. Furthermore, I suspect that there will be many members of this house who will wish to put in a claim for the credit for what is to be done. In fact, we have had many of them named already, and I do not want to appear to be one of them.

A great deal of nonsense has been talked about war veterans allowances. The fact that it is an allowance for assistance and not a pension for a disability has seemingly been obscured and lost sight of. Originally the scheme was based upon the implied and, to me, unwarranted assumption that all those who served in an actual battle area were *ipso facto* prematurely aged by ten years. Veterans, and particularly those of the first war, know that simply is not true. Certainly I will not accept it as a fact.

I was going to ask the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Pearkes) to allow me to use him as an example. He is not in his seat, and I regret that fact, but I am going to use him anyway because I am sure he will not object. One has only to look at my good friend the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich to doubt the statement that a man with battle service is prematurely aged by ten years. If anybody had front-line service, he certainly had it and in good measure. But I doubt that he would be flattered by the thought that his chronological age is not a