

The Address—Mr. Peddle

any idiot knows our society is not inspired by love and compassion. Who is trying to kid whom? If we are trying to suggest to the people who are on the "love kick" that this society is not inspired by love and compassion—and we know it is not—then the message could very easily be interpreted to mean that not only is society not worthy of the name but it is not worthy of continued existence. It does not take too much of a cynic to read that into the Speech, Mr. Speaker.

This is the type of thing I am talking about which takes up the majority of the Throne Speech. It most certainly takes up a number of the opening pages. What is the government suggesting? Is it suggesting it will legislate love and compassion, as it presumed to legislate hatred last year in the bill passed in this House to control racial hatred and so on? That is not likely.

I am very concerned about the very great emphasis placed on such words as "freedom" and "liberty" in this Speech. It is not, God forgive me, that I have anything against freedom and liberty, but when I read a speech in this day and age when the country is bothered with grave crises and I see freedom and liberty still emphasized and not much emphasis placed on the need for continuation and strengthening of law and order, I become very worried indeed. It strikes me as being very significant that the speech emphasizes so strongly freedom and everything while showing no concern for what the Canadian people would expect to be there at this particular time.

Again I say I am not suggesting this has been done wittingly or knowingly, but I cannot escape the thought that this Speech does in effect give a great deal of encouragement, and sort of the green light, to the small minority which is hell-bent upon destroying our social order in this country.

● (9:40 p.m.)

The whole backbone of the Speech is to be found in the following phrases—the new age, the changing of attitudes, entering an age of tension. We are told in the Speech that this is what we can accomplish if we use foresight, stamina and enterprise. Ours may be, if we wish it, a society in which human differences are regarded as assets and not liabilities. I did not know there was ever a time in Canada's history when human differences of the right kind were not regarded as assets rather than liabilities.

It almost suggests to me that I am being asked whether I have been involved in a good demonstration lately, or a riot; and it suggests to me that if I was not, I should be ashamed of myself. We are told that ours may be, if we wish it, a society in which individual freedom and equality of opportunity remain the most cherished possessions. I have no doubt about that. That is what we all aspire to. We are told of a society in which the enjoyment of life is measured in qualitative, not quantitative terms. That sounds like a statement that is made to the very rich, to those who are happy and content and to those who have their bellies filled. Then, I think, we can start thinking in qualitative rather than quantitative terms. But try using this philosophy for the consolation of the large number of

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Canadian people who cannot afford the luxury of giving these words a meaning.

We are told about a society which encourages imagination and daring, ingenuity and initiative, not coldly and impersonally for the sake of efficiency but with warmth and from the heart as between friends. This takes the harm out of the other things that I do not like so well, but it does not work. We are told the following:

As Canada moves into the seventies we are all invited to join in this bold enterprise—to share the excitement, to face the challenge, to pursue the distant ideal of a just society.

It is not the Just Society of a couple of years ago—written in capital letters—but just any old just society, not even capitalized. On June 18, 1968, Canadians were led to believe we would have a just society. Now it becomes a distant ideal that we have to pursue. The Prime Minister says he does not want to sloganize any more.

There are a couple of very vague references to our economic situation. There is a reference to the sale of wheat. The government is pleased at the widespread public response to its invitation to comment on the White paper on taxation. We used to hear that type of pious platitudes in Newfoundland when I was in that legislature. I think the House would like to hear of this. Some years ago the minister of finance of Newfoundland put a large tax increase on the price of cigarettes. In announcing that increase he said in his speech, "It is my sincere wish that this tax will discourage people from using this vile weed," or words to that effect. Notwithstanding that, it put another \$4 million or \$5 million dollars into the treasury. I do not think this government is pleased, as it alleges to be. I think it is just trying to get out as gracefully as it can.

I would give any amount of money to know who is the actual author of the Throne Speech. I think all Canadians should have a copy of it, because I think a day will come when it will be a collector's item. I would like to conclude my remarks with the words used by the Governor General to close the Speech from the Throne: "May Divine Providence guide us in our deliberations"—because with the government we have, we need all the help we can get from above.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, it is not easy for one to follow the hon. member who preceded me, and it is not easy for one to look at the Throne Speech and see the things that he saw in it: one really has to be as bright as the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). However, the Speech from the Throne amuses me also.

I could talk about many things that are contained in the Throne Speech, such as the distant ideal that was mentioned by the hon. member, and the philosophical words that are used therein to describe the way we are going in Canada and the way in which we are facing the new decade. I could talk, also, about the White paper on taxation, but I must confess that like the hon. member