

*The Address—Mr. Desmarais*

must conserve, we must develop new sources of energy and we must diversify. I am confident that these things will happen.

I recall that when the United States refused to join Canada in building the St. Lawrence Seaway, Louis St. Laurent said Canada would take the initiative, and we did. Today, we face equally important and challenging decisions with regard to getting energy to market—Bay of Fundy tidal power, northern gas pipelines, moving clean, pure water from the northern watershed to the water-starved cities of the eastern seaboard. To the resolution of these challenges we must bring the same kind of enlightened and patriotic daring that motivated Prime Minister St. Laurent 30 years ago.

Returning to the creative society, our country can do a great deal more to support art and culture than we have ever done. We can do more to bring out into the sunlight of public acclaim the cultures of other races than English or French; the many races who settled in Canada bringing with them the cultural dynamism of the old world. These we must recognize and accept, and to them we must accord the kind of recognition that will result in a new and vibrant form of social expression.

Thomas Jefferson saw the key problem of the modern world, the problem of the individual. A more ancient book said that man does not live by bread alone. Individuals require the social buttressing that comes from institutions that are progressive and flexible, with clearly spelled out and agreed upon purposes. Individuals require also to live and work in a cultural context with which they are familiar and which contributes to their spiritual well-being. When people sense that they are participating in a society that is creative and dynamic, then they are aware of social and spiritual well-being. Great works of art, architecture, ballet, theatre, and yes, triumphs of engineering, help to overcome the depersonalization of institutions and the constraints applied to individual self-expression.

What is modern man to do, Mr. Speaker, faced with the bigness, impersonality, declining standards, self-serving policies, and waste of many modern institutions? I strongly believe that the human personality is crying out for the opportunity to redeem its own soul. Is this too far-fetched? Are humanity and integrity becoming permanently submerged by our mass institutional imperatives?

Henri Bergson wrote "Il faut à l'homme un supplément d'âme"—something to satisfy the spirit. Without this, in the long term, our affluence, technology, our GNP and our prosperity will become increasingly irrelevant.

In the sixties our own young people rejected the values of the corporatist-military state, along with much of its affluence. Today, many of the values of the western world, our acquisitiveness, our greed, our unconcern and disdain for human perspectives, our fatal death wish which sees us polluting the environment with reckless disregard—all of these are totally repulsive to the older civilizations of the Third World.

It is our particular function, in line with the findings of the Brandt report, to establish priorities between technology and human values; between scientific accomplishments and the

preservation of the human soul—that is man's capacity to preserve his individual integrity and order his own destiny.

In essence the issue is whether the social structure will be designed in accordance with the needs of the many or simply to perpetuate the tyranny of the few. Whether we are speaking of government tyranny, the tyranny of the media, the tyranny of great corporations, or merely of the all enveloping tyranny of mediocrity, the final result is the same.

[*Translation*]

Even if we have failed to develop fully this potential of human freedom which we hold so dear, we are witness to the horror of enslavement that is steadily gaining ground in Communist totalitarian countries. All eastern Europe is under the Communist yoke. In Africa, some Communist governments remain in power with the help of Russian tanks and Cuban guns. In Southeast Asia, the idealists who looked upon the Viet Nam war as a war of liberation recognize with terror that their worst fears are coming true. The almost diabolical strength of Russian communism has now caused a genocide unequalled since Hitler's.

President Lincoln once said that the United States could not survive with half of the population reduced to slavery. Men of good will must now recognize that the world cannot survive with one-half of its population free and the other half enslaved, and that Russian communism is behind this cloud of slavery which is spreading over the world.

In pursuing its goal, nothing can stop the U.S.S.R., and the sad situation of the people in Afghanistan is only one example. As a matter of fact, it can truly be said that man's right to exercise his freedom is more threatened than it ever was in the dark ages. Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that we are on the brink of a new dark era where the freedom of man will become a pale light in an ocean of darkness. I feel it is our duty, to the extent that we believe in freedom and democracy, to keep that light shining. Fortunately, there are still signs of hope.

During the recent election in Rhodesia, we were struck by the moderation shown by the black leader, Joseph Mugabe, in dealing with the white people in his country. Let us hope, Mr. Speaker, that the same moderation will be the key, one of the solutions to our problems. Instead of building on fear and hate, as the Marxists do, that man has opted for moderation and compromise, and is urging the whites of Rhodesia to share in the development of the African society in a new spirit of dignity. Mr. Speaker, that is the course to follow.

Specialization has enabled us to channel our efforts quickly in new fields of endeavour. As John Donne said, "No man is an island", we can say the same without hesitation about our governments. They must apply themselves to understanding what is going on in the world, apply themselves to defining the objectives to be pursued and finding the means to achieve them. Our survival depends, Mr. Speaker, on our capacity to adapt to the major changes forced upon us. Our decisions must be taken in the light of those changes.