

*The Address—Mr. Jorgenson*

how deeply we regret her untimely passing. She was a person who gave freely of her many talents and abundant energy to a variety of organizations helping mankind. I should like to extend to her immediate family my deepest sympathy at her passing.

May I also, in the time honoured tradition, offer my congratulations to the mover and second of the address in reply. I do not say this in a perfunctory manner because both of them have acquitted themselves in a fashion which does credit to them, to their constituencies and to their party. I feel confident that in the future we will hear them express their opinions on subjects on which they both appear to be experts.

On occasion we find that a speech from the throne will reveal everything. On other occasions the reverse is true, depending upon the type of manoeuvring the particular government in power has in mind. In my opinion this one revealed only one thing, namely that this government is still afflicted with fumbling indecision. It is trying to be everything to everybody and does not really know in what direction it should go. In a speech from the throne the government can either promise to do everything or not promise to do anything, and this one seemed to be constructed in such a fashion that the government could take either of these two alternatives and still say that it fulfilled its promises contained in the throne speech. As a matter of fact, it was so vague in that respect that one would be tempted to believe that it was the joint effort of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) and the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson). I cannot help but think that there must have been some contribution made by both of these gentlemen in this particular throne speech.

If we can interpret correctly anything that has been said in the throne speech, we can take it that the government will bring in a measure of parliamentary reform. I do not want to trespass on the ground that was covered so ably this morning by my colleague, the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill), but I share with him the concern that this government, either deliberately or inadvertently, is placing this institution in a strait-jacket from which it will not be able to manoeuvre, where freedom of expression by members of this house will be lost and where the government will be able to do at will whatever it pleases, without being called to account for it.

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One of the things which I believe have made this country unique in the eyes of the world has been the happy balance we have been able to maintain between freedom and respect for law and order. I think that to a large extent our institution of parliament has been the instrument through which this measure has been achieved. I am afraid that to disturb the role of parliament such as we know it here in Canada could either cause the loss of freedom of the people of this country or a loss of their respect for law and order.

I hope that this centennial year will give each of us an opportunity to assess our present and our past. I hope it does not degenerate into a splurge of emotional flag waving or vain boasting, because I do not think that this is what will make our country great. What has contributed so much to our prosperity has been the effort of every individual Canadian to make his own part of the country a better place in which to live. Collectively, then, we have built a better Canada. I should not like to see that kind of initiative, which has been developed through the years, taken away from our people so they will feel that the government, and the government alone, is the answer to all their problems. I share with my colleague, the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, the fear that this is the state into which we are being driven.

• (4:50 p.m.)

There are a number of measures mentioned in the throne speech upon which I should like to comment, particularly since they affect my own area of this country. Reference was made to the area development program. Although it is difficult to determine just what changes are intended, it is stated that parliament will be invited to broaden the scope of the area development incentive program and to provide increased funds for it. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that not only will they broaden the scope of this program but that they will change some of the criteria used to enable areas of this country to qualify under the program.

I happen to represent an area that is largely within the Winnipeg National Employment Service district. The city of Winnipeg has not suffered from the unemployment problem which has afflicted other areas of this country and, on an average, has had a relatively high level of employment. This situation, however, does not hold true in the rural areas surrounding that city. When the people in the area I have referred to find themselves lumped in with the city of Winnipeg for the purpose