

*The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker*

in this country in the last four years a denigration of the principle of monarchy. Tradition is removed from our armed services. "Royal" disappears. They reveal this government's course.

I hope something will be done this year to give young Canadians a knowledge of their country. Many Canadians ask: "Why should I worry about history?" Mr. Speaker, "he who does not history know, does not know his country".

Let us build in this nation this year something of that inspiration which I had hoped to secure on reading the speech from the throne. Let it not be said that such sentiments cannot be embedded in the speech from the throne, that they are too general for inclusion. If ever a speech from the throne was packed full of generalities it is this one. It is a serious matter to put into the mouth of the new Governor General 45 minutes of words constituting in large measure a repetition of what has been said in the past containing nothing to inspire or lift up the heart. There is nothing which will ever be quoted except in this debate. Instead of this speech from the throne being a prospectus for Canada it is a record of unfulfilled promises. Those who have responsibility for drafting these speeches have been working on it for a long while. They have produced a pale, colourless creation, vague and uncertain. It contains 29 different items or promises of expected legislation, only three of which are new, and nothing at all regarding the constitution in this year of 1967 except "we are looking into it".

Well, Mr. Speaker, there used to be governments called "Breeches governments"—foolish governments—in the United Kingdom. We have never before had a government which qualified to be called the "we-are-looking-into-it" government. Now we have. On April 21 we heard an embryo speech from the throne by the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson). We shall have another today, no doubt—a new compendium of broken promises and unrealized aspirations offering to the Canadian people the pretence of action.

● (3:40 p.m.)

I am going to review the recommendations in very short order. They include a department of consumer affairs, long-term loans to a agriculture and fishing co-operatives, and a crown corporation to run the Nova Scotia coal mines, something that the members from Cape Breton on our side of the house have been trying to bring about for a long while.

So far as agriculture is concerned it is a wonder that the seconder of the address in reply said everything is well. All that is going to be done for the farmer, with prices falling and the cost of the things he has to purchase rising, is a task force for agriculture, as if agriculture is not in enough difficulties now.

There is nothing in the speech from the throne to promise incentives for free enterprise and there is no hope of tax reductions. The government would not set out tax reductions at this time but it could give an idea of what it is going to do on behalf of tax-ridden Canadians.

What do they promise? I have referred to the B.N.A. Act. Then they are going to extend the designated area program, amend unemployment insurance provisions, and bring in a white paper on investment. This is an example of the government's "Gordon syndrome." Every time he does anything he gets them into trouble. They cannot live with him, they cannot live without him. They are going to have him as chairman of a committee to decide whether foreign investment is any good. Well, Mr. Speaker, we know he is free from bias in that connection. That is the reason he was chosen as chairman of the committee.

There is another victory over the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp) and those of the right in the Canada Development Corporation. That hoary chestnut has been dug up for the third or fourth time; this is resurrection in triplicate.

Sir, the speech from the throne is an amazing document. There are going to be amendments to the Indian Act but we do not know what they are going to be. We gave the Indians the vote when we were in office. The hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) brought in a bill for votes for Eskimos and we supported it.

There is something amazing about international affairs. Here is a government full of international experts. Yet what do they produce in respect of Viet Nam? The government, knowing that the United Nations turned down the proposal of Canada and associated nations for the setting up of a peace force, under the United Nations, now proposes an international presence. General Allard says that our forces are going to be made over as an international force. There is nothing in the speech from the throne to let the Canadian people know that without NATO freedom cannot survive.

There is to be a complete revision of the Immigration Act. This has come back for the