

side, getting up and saying that we were galloping hellwards because our debt was \$350 million.

This government, with their welfare-statism, are spending that much now in two or three weeks. We have more welfare-statism in Canada than in any country in the world with the possible exception of Britain and Sweden. And we know what has happened to Sweden. Sweden still has 80 per cent of all her industries privately owned. Why do they keep them privately owned? To get money through taxes to pay for the welfare-statism. And they have gone so far now that in the last election they were all but defeated; only 40 per cent of Swedes voted for that welfare-state government. They had 40 years of it and now they know what it is. Apart from Sweden and Britain there is not one country today, not one, with more welfare-state costs than Canada. And this is going on and on. Money is being poured into the market and every time you pour that money into the market you take something away from private enterprise. You take something away from me and from every man in this house, and I know what they tell us. They say, "Don't worry too much about it; we owe the debt to ourselves."

Honourable senators, that is a false and fallacious statement. We do not owe the debt to ourselves; we owe the debt to certain people in the country and they will have to collect. Owe it to ourselves? Do you realize that not 50 per cent of the Canadian people own the government bonds? Those bonds are not held by all of us. When those debts come to be paid, and those obligations will have to be paid, they will not be paid to me. I am not a holder of bonds. They will not be paid to many people in this house. They will be paid to a few people who will collect. The obligations will have to be paid and they will be paid out of your taxes and mine.

These are the clichés of the welfare state—and they have them in abundance—that this debt does not matter, that it does not matter what we spend or what we owe, that we owe it to ourselves. I venture to say that when we come to pay, we will have to pay, not to ourselves but to a few people in this country and some of them are still holding interest-free bonds.

This is the trouble with this government. This is not, I repeat, a minority government in the true sense of the word. We have had minority governments in every state for a hundred years. Some were good governments, and in certain cases they could be good. This is a liberal-socialist alliance with the socialists calling the shot.

My friend knows that very well. Why Mr. David Lewis is not in the Cabinet I do not know, but he should be in there as "Minister for Everything." The Prime Minister? The Prime Minister goes around with Adam Smith in one hand and Karl Marx in the other, but paying more attention to Karl Marx than to poor Adam Smith. I knew an Irish politician who spoke for two hours on one occasion and he ended up by saying, "Gentlemen, these are my principles, but if you don't like them I have others." The Prime Minister goes further than that. The Prime Minister says "Gentlemen, these are our principles but if Mr. David Lewis doesn't like them we have others."

That is the kind of government we are getting today. This is a government of pragmatic opportunists, and my friend comes today to list a whole lot of things that are in

[Hon. Mr. O'Leary.]

the Speech from the Throne. Someone once said that the American Constitution was a collection of glittering generalities. These are generalities but, God help us, they are not glittering. They are in stilted and pedestrian English and I am sure Mr. Jules Léger, who is a very sophisticated man, must have often paused and said, "Can I really speak that?"

This is true. I have seen many Speeches from the Throne, but I have never seen such a conglomeration of nonsense as there is in the Speech from the Throne that is before us at the present time.

It is appalling that in a country like Canada with all that we have, all that we hope to be, that a government after three years—three years of inaction, three years of failure, three years of defeat—comes to us now with a lot of promises for the future. They say, "We cannot do anything about inflation. It is impossible. This is a worldwide thing and we cannot do a thing about it, but you just wait and see what we are going to do next year."

Honourable senators, I know you think I am partisan, and I am, but so are you. Even if I were not partisan, even if I were the most objective person in the world, I could not sit down and stomach that Speech from the Throne. If I were a socialist I would certainly want this government to continue in office, but if I believed even a mite in freedom, if I believed even a mite in free enterprise, I could not understand or would not be able to understand how any person believing in free enterprise, believing in any kind of free system, would want this government to continue in power.

● (1520)

Honourable senators, there is one other thing I wanted to say and that I will come back to some other day. In the Speech from the Throne they mentioned railways. Ever since I have been around Parliament they have been going to revise railway freight rates. We had the Turgeon Commission, we had the MacPherson Commission, we had the Duncan Commission, and God knows what else. I want to say this: I have made a bit of a study of railway rates and I believe that railway rates in Canada are among the best in the world. Don't forget that the railways today are not the railways we knew 30, 40 or 50 years ago. The railways in Canada today are subject to the most stringent competition, and that competition is growing. You cannot judge today what the railways are doing or trying to do, or are not doing, by what was happening 10, 20 or 30 or 40 years ago. I do believe, myself, that railway rates in Canada, considering the character of our country's geography, are perhaps the lowest and the best in the world. So whatever we do, let us not rush blindly along saying that we must do something about transportation.

It is true that transportation in the Atlantic provinces is something we might want to look at, but don't let us listen to the pseudo-socialists and pseudo-liberals who come along now and think that it is a good, vote-getting scheme to say, "We are going to do something about transportation." I believe they said that on the eve of the election in Nova Scotia. That is something I object to.

I object to the pragmatism of this government. They are opportunists, nothing else. They have no principle, no policies, no ideology even, but have merely a hand-to-mouth existence. That is what we have been getting in the