

*The Address—Mr. Bigg*

believe that if we are firm now we could save perhaps millions of lives.

• (12:10 p.m.)

If we stood beside our allies in West Germany, the United States and Britain and showed there was no doubt whatsoever where we stood in NATO everybody would know where we stood. I am begging for consistency all the way through from the treatment accorded the Saddle Lake Indian reserve, to the United Nations and NATO. I want clearcut policies. I do not suggest that they should be decided in public but I believe the public has a right to know where we are going.

On June 25 we signed a huge, blank cheque which would appear to be valid for perhaps four years. What is the government going to do? I expected the Speech from the Throne to tell me some of these things. I know what the attitudes are. I have heard all the clichés. The just society is nothing new; Plato spoke about it 3,000 years ago. There are many members in this chamber who have read Greek authors. We know the old story, a square deal for everybody, but what are we going to do about it? We have the power to do something. I suggest that our plans for the immediate future—never mind 15 years from now—are picayune. Instead of trying to clean up poverty we should be seeking an affluent society for every Canadian. It will be difficult enough, with this type of program, to attack poverty. It will be a great deal more difficult, challenging and satisfactory to bring to Canada an affluent society. If we did this on a solid basis, and I think it could be done, we could be so strong at home that we could afford to be generous abroad. We could raise the standard of life in Canada to the highest in the world, because we have the resources both natural and human to do so. We have in this country people willing to work in order to achieve this goal.

To talk about supplying aid to other societies to the extent of a decimal point is not good enough. We can be of much more assistance to the rest of the world. If we doubled our own capacity for the good life we could give 10 per cent of the increase and never miss it. Instead seeking a 20-hour week under which we would share greater and greater poverty among more and more people, why not make our 40-hour week work? Why do we not challenge the people who are asking for consideration from those who are making money to help us earn it? I think they will want to do it. They do not do so because they

[Mr. Bigg.]

lack leadership. If leadership is wanting because of a lack of personal experience, let me say there are 265 members in this house who are ready, willing and able to co-operate. I suggest that so far as we are concerned this parliament is not going to be a negative one.

Having pointed out the weaknesses in the Speech from the Throne I say that during the next four years we are going to press ahead and tell the people of Canada what this party stands for in the way of positive steps to bring about the affluent society. Let us stop concentrating on the negative, on poverty, and on those who do not think they fit into the Canadian society. Instead, let us give them good reasons and good opportunities to fit in. This will need the co-operation of both the young and the old.

While I am on this subject let me say that a great deal has yet to be done to repay our old people for the contribution they have made. When we ask the young people to make their contribution, let us remind them of their duty to the old and of their duty to the old standards. We can give them an education, but it will not be free; education is never free. If it is free, then it has to be made up for in effort. Young people in Canada today have never had such an opportunity. This house, the provincial legislatures and the municipalities are digging deep into the taxpayers' pockets to pay for education. I think it is high time that we, both in and out of the house, stopped telling the young people how badly they are using this money and instead tell them that we are willing to go hand in hand with them in helping them build an affluent society.

I am disappointed in the throne speech because it contains very little, if any, mention of the deplorable lack of housing and says little, if anything, about the high cost of mortgages. It says very little about the difficulties of transportation and the complete lack of transportation in the great northern and hinterland districts of Canada. It seems to me that it concentrates mostly on philosophical problems which, like poverty, will be with us always. I think we can take great steps forward in developing the natural resources of Canada with the roads to resources program.

We can do a great deal in housing if we make funds available to the right people. Of the hundreds of millions of dollars which parliament has voted for better housing in Canada, how much has gone into high-rise apartments, how much has been concentrated in