

Speech from the Throne

to ensure opportunities for all Canadian and discriminate against none. Progress in the direction of social justice has been assured for three years by such legislation as the new Unemployment Insurance Act, tax reform, the Bail Reform Act, increased pensions for veterans, the Opportunities for Youth Program, housing programs geared to low-income families, the Local Initiatives Program, and I could enumerate many more.

And the government has been most lavish with these benefits. Indeed, for the fiscal year 1970-71 alone, the government paid out \$557,877,821 under the Family Allowance Plan, \$1,627,219,132 under the Old Age Pension Plan, and to these amounts are added contributions to the Guaranteed Income Supplement. The government has contributed \$99,039,772 to the Unemployment Insurance Fund. What else can I add to show the government's concern and efficiency in the field of social policy?

With regard to the economy, in the midst of international financial crises, the government keeps struggling toward a prosperous economy and the elimination of regional disparities.

Over 200,000 jobs were created last year. Of course, this is not enough to keep up with the tremendous increase in the labour force, but it does represent an achievement proportionately superior to that of any other country in the western world. In addition, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the Ministry of State for Science and Technology were created. The Prince Edward Island development program, the act on farm products marketing agencies, the act on grain, the program to promote small farms, the two-price system for wheat are many achievements to be credited to the record of the present government. And the Speech from the Throne is no exception in the long list of concrete achievements, ingenious programs, which introduced innovations in the strategy aimed at the complex problems of a swiftly changing society.

On reading the Speech from the Throne, one notes that the fight against unemployment is at the very heart of the government's concern, and that it will multiply its efforts with a view to remedying it. A rational policy of national control over foreign investments will also be applied, which policy is really very timely in view of the fact that a large sector of our economy is in the hands of foreign companies and investors who, in applying their expansionist policy, care more about their own interests than the well-being of Canadians.

In my riding alone, Mr. Speaker, the International Nickel Company controls the life of most of my electors. For instance, they can do nothing about the recent layoffs decreed by the company.

I feel that the governments, federal as well as provincial, should exercise greater control over these foreign companies.

• (2010)

During this fourth session we will witness the enforcement of new social measures, such as the promotion of a new program for low-cost housing and the increase in funds for student loans. Criminal code reforms to ensure the protection of private life belong in this context aimed at improving the life of Canadians.

I am particularly thankful for a measure ensuring the extension of CBC services and I take this opportunity to request once again a French television station for Sudbury, a local programming station to meet the needs of French Canadians in this area who represent more than 40 per cent of the total population.

Finally, I welcome the measures recommending the creation of three new national parks north of the 60th parallel and those relating to wildlife and their habitats. They reflect the constant interest of the government in the conservation of a healthy natural environment, in short our country's wealth.

The new Labour Code, Family Income Security legislation, a bill to amend the Farm Credit Act, National Anthem legislation—a listing of all important measures would take too long—but such is the legislative program of a government that is not afraid to be daring and imaginative in coming face to face with the 70's.

Thanks to the representations made by my electors and to my numerous interventions in the House and in committee, this government has lately given greater consideration to my region in the Nickel Belt.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport has just given approval to the building of a new airport in Sudbury at a cost of \$1.5 million. Our region has been included in the designated area in order to be eligible for grants to secondary industries. The Department of Regional Economic Expansion is striving hard to find some means of ensuring the survival of the industries and factories of our region and many subsidies have already been granted.

Under the Local Initiative program, the Department of Manpower and Immigration has already granted some \$200,000 to municipalities and organizations in the Nickel Belt constituency thus creating over 100 jobs during winter.

Under the Opportunities for Youth program, I have already been assured that special attention will be granted to the requests from my area as a result of the decision of the Inco company not to hire some 2,000 students, as previously.

For several months now, the citizens of Northern Ontario have been enjoying better television service following the establishment of a second station in Sudbury.

Several modern post-offices have been constructed in various locations of my constituency.

The services of the various governmental agencies and offices in my area have been greatly improved. I especially refer to a more competent staff hired at the Unemployment Insurance Commission at the Manpower Centre and several other departments.

The Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) has given several grants to cultural organizations and I hope that this assistance will be increased to enable the various ethnic groups to flourish even more in their own culture.

I could enumerate a great number of concrete achievements which give clear indication of the increased attention that the federal government has given to my region over these past years, but time is running short.

Thanks to a sound economic policy and a great climate of confidence, my region has had these past years an