

*The Address—Mr. McLean*

ment and others within the House who may find this a worth-while proposal.

I should like to make a second observation—this one about the single most important question facing Canada, the United States and a number of other western countries; namely, the whole issue of inflation and its effects on our society. The throne speech seeks to address this issue.

I am constantly struck by the way in which inflation is constantly perceived almost totally as an economic problem. This is perhaps understandable, because I am sure every member of this House is constantly reminded of the economic aspects of inflation every day of his or her life. I do not think, however, that we will fully understand inflation, nor will we be able to form a strategy to come to grips with this fundamental problem, until we possess a much broader understanding of what inflation really is.

Inflation is much more than an economic issue. Inflation is a sociological, psychological, political and, indeed, in very many ways a spiritual problem. It is straining the very essence of our society. It presents us with perhaps the fundamental challenge to our whole system of government and way of life as we move into the 1980s. Amongst its many insidious effects in our society, inflation tends to reinforce a protective, narrow self-interest on the part of individuals and groups; and at the same time it tends to weaken the spirit of co-operation and collaboration among the many elements and interests across our society.

I think we are seriously deficient in our analysis of inflation if we do not understand this "cancerous disease" in all its dimensions. By regarding inflation solely as an economic issue, we are blinding ourselves to any real possibility of coming to grips with it.

I should like to propose, therefore, that either as part of some of the conferences on industrial development mentioned in the throne speech, or as a separate national conference in its own right, we should begin to develop a broader and better analysis of inflation and its consequences. We need to involve more than economists in these discussions. Social scientists, church leaders, leaders in the voluntary sector, labour leaders and many other groups should be invited to participate in a national conference on inflation. I hope the government will look seriously at this proposal.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, let me say I have the honour to represent a riding whose people are proud of Canada, and among those people there are those with dreams for this nation and who are not afraid to tackle difficult situations. Many of them have come from lands of oppression and appreciate the freedom that we enjoy in Canada. I am proud to represent this microcosm of Canadian society, and I am proud to offer my contribution in this House.

As I speak to Parliament on this day when we remember the decision to recognize persons—the human rights of women—I remember also the words of the first Canadian Governor General, the Right Hon. Vincent Massey. I wish during this,

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my first speech in this significant chamber, to identify myself with the words of Governor General Massey, who said:

I believe in Canada, with pride in her past, belief in her present, and faith in her future.

I believe in the quality of Canadian life, and in the character of Canadian institutions.

I believe in the Commonwealth of Nations, within whose bounds we have found freedom, and outside which our national life would lose its independent being.

I believe that Canada is one, and that if our minds dwell on those things which its parts have in common, we can find the unity of the whole.

I believe that with sound work, the spirit of a team, and an awareness of ourselves, we can look forward to achievements beyond our imagining.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, since it is very near the hour, I wonder if I might call it one o'clock and commence my remarks at two o'clock.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Does the House agree that we call it one o'clock?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

● (1400)

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, during the recent election campaign and during their recent years in opposition, the Conservative party gave the impression that they had the answer to all problems—for the handling of the economy, for the rate of inflation and unemployment, for the price of food and for the price and availability of housing, to mention a few. They also felt they could solve the problems of freedom of information and, indeed, almost every problem in this country. During the election campaign the Conservatives, with these promises and with slick, misleading and sometimes malicious advertising in the media, took in many Canadians.

But what do we have now? After approximately five months of power we have a government of charades, contradictions and flip-flops. We have a Speech from the Throne which suggests a lot of studies. The government wants to study this and study that, but there are few answers. Where are those brave statements that party made before the election, that they were going to act on the price of food, the Canadian dollar, interest rates, youth and unemployment and so on? Where are the answers now?