

The Address—Mr. Douglas

as teachers, doctors, nurses, scientists, agronomists, and technicians.

I was glad to hear the Prime Minister speak this afternoon of the Company of Young Canadians that is to be formed. I have great faith in the young people of this country. I believe they will respond to the challenge, and I believe they will make a great contribution toward raising the standard of living and the quality of life in some of the underdeveloped countries of the world.

Mr. Speaker, the scientific revolution can be a blessing, but I point out that it will not come about automatically. Left to itself, cybernation will cause widespread unemployment and economic dislocation. It is no longer sufficient for society to change with the times. The future belongs to the society which anticipates change and plans to meet the adjustments that the scientific revolution demands. A new force is in our hands; we have to channel it and direct it for constructive purposes.

We in the New Democratic party believe that Canada must set goals for the abundant society. It is strange that, despite the fact that we have a higher standard of living than our forefathers, there is a growing feeling of uneasiness in this country. People speak of crisis without defining it. I think they sense that the real crisis in Canada is the lack of leadership; that the government has so far lacked any clear sense of direction, any sense of national purpose; the government has failed to set goals that will challenge the Canadian people to put forth every effort for their attainment. The tragedy of the speech from the throne is that it is aimed at the ideal of the stable government rather than the dynamic government.

In this debate, sir, the members of the New Democratic party will deal with several aspects of the most important goal that we think Canada should be moving toward. That goal was set forth by the Economic Council of Canada. In their first report they suggested that Canada must create one and a half million jobs in the next five years; that our gross national product must grow at the rate of 5½ per cent per year in constant dollars; and that we must reduce unemployment by 1970 to at least 3 per cent; that we must in this five-year period, if we are to get even close to full employment, increase our gross national product by \$20 billion. We do not suggest that this is the only goal for Canada—there are many goals—but this is the goal upon which the success of all the other goals will depend. If we fail to attain this

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goal, then it will be extremely difficult to achieve any of the other goals.

In the course of this debate, sir, we propose to suggest seven programs for the attainment of this objective of creating one and one half million jobs, increasing our G.N.P. by 5½ per cent, in constant dollars, and increasing our total productivity by \$20 billion.

First, we propose a program of economic planning, and I intend to deal with that in the course of my remarks this evening.

Second, we shall propose a manpower policy, because we believe that economic growth is meaningless for those who are out of work due to automation or lack of training. These are the men and women who have been thrown on the slag heap of our society. We need a manpower policy which will give them a meaningful role in our society.

• (8:40 p.m.)

Third, we shall make proposals for maintaining the stability of price levels. The Economic Council of Canada says that we must keep price increases down to at least 2 per cent per year or inflation will rob us of all our gains. This is important. There is little value in giving a few more dollars a month in pensions if the increase in the cost of living takes it all back again. We suggest that the government must have something more positive to grapple with this problem than they had when the steel companies increased the price of steel, when the best the government could do was to suggest that the Economic Council of Canada look into the matter. The consumer is defenceless. The government has a responsibility to do something about increased prices and to see whether or not they are justified and warranted. The government cannot afford to hide behind the constitution. The government has the responsibility to work out with the provinces where the responsibility lies, and we shall discuss this in the course of this debate.

Fourth, we will discuss the monetary and fiscal policies which will promote economic growth and direct investment into channels which will develop Canadian resources under Canadian ownership. We support the proposal of the Economic Council of Canada that we must use Canadian savings to give Canadians a greater voice in making the economic decisions that will determine our future economic destiny.

Fifth, one of our members will discuss the social goals which we must establish in this next five-year period by the setting up of social security measures and comprehensive medicare because increased productivity now