

Radio Broadcast by R. P. Vivian

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

As the Member of Parliament for the County of Durham, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to report to you from Parliament Hill, Ottawa, on my impression of the present session.

In my last broadcast I spoke to you about the Opening of Parliament, and the highlights of the Speech from the Throne. Now, as this session of Parliament has progressed, the words of the Speech from the Throne have taken on additional meaning.

The mere words that set forth the intent of the Diefenbaker Ministry for this session become more meaningful as the problems of Canada at this time become more clearly set out by discussion in the House of Commons, and by events that are taking place in our country and elsewhere in the world.

At the outset of this session, two things seemed to be placed in a paramount position—the matter of unemployment, and the matter of Canada's financial position with particular reference to the problems of inflation.

As the session has progressed there are things which stand out in relation to each of these two matters or unemployment and inflation that are closely linked and, therefore, can be considered in relation to both.

The most important fact is that the policies of the Diefenbaker government, taken in relation to conditions everywhere, at home and abroad, are providing to be very sound.

The Members of the House of Commons in Opposition tried to make much—in fact they appear to have tried to grossly



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exaggerate, the unemployment situation. While it is true that there is still a percentage of the labour force that needs to be more fully employed—and some who are employed need a fuller measure of work opportunity and, consequently, more take-home pay—the fact remains that the employment situation is greatly improved already. It is the hope, and the expectation, that the end of our long winter will see a much higher return to fuller employment and, therefore, more gainful occupation.

The other major factor lies in the world conditions. In spite of our recent economic difficulties, we have been fortunate—that is, more fortunate than many people—in many lands—because Canadians are singularly blessed with bountiful resources of many kinds in this country—resources which are beginning to be more fully developed to the benefit of our own people—and to others elsewhere who need what we produce.

Our Government is well aware of this. They are also aware that good government is required to establish conditions where productivity can flourish, but equally so, government, as such, cannot do the work required of those who wish to share in the activity and reward of production. In other words, work—and good work—is the operative condition that must be undertaken if we are to be successful.

Conditions, at home, and abroad, are such that we in Canada must produce the finished product, and produce it at a selling price that means completion of the task if we are to be truly successful in our endeavours. We must not price ourselves out of our own or other markets. This is a challenge to both management and labour in our manufactured goods.

It is equally a challenge to those engaged in the production, processing and packing in the distribution of our primary products of agriculture, be it fruit, vegetable, meat, dairy and other products, therefore, it behooves the processor and wholesaler of the food products to keep the cost of the finished product at a level consistent with the purchasing power of the homemaker—and also of the buyer for export. This is of particular importance when we consider the great difference between what the agricultural producer receives for the raw product, and what the consumer has to pay for the same product off the store shelf.

The problems of unemployment, and of inflation, are closely linked to the rising spiral of costs to the consumer. In this, we, the people of Canada, can do much ourselves if we are willing to consider the

over-all pattern, and take appropriate action, that is, to keep the costs at a minimum while accelerating production of articles for which there is a market.

In connection with food, the position of the primary producer—the farmer—must be given full consideration. Much has been done by the Diefenbaker Ministry in this; much more needs to be done.

The Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Douglas Harkness, had this to say on March 6th, and I quote:

"Much, of course, remains to be done and the Conservative Government's long-range farm program provides for several other important reforms. These have been outlined by the Prime Minister, and by myself, on numerous occasions, and I will merely summarize them briefly here.

First, the institution of an improved farm credit scheme is vital to enable more young men to get started in farming, and to make it possible the necessary modernization and improvement of many existing farms. Legislation to bring this into effect will be introduced at the present session of Parliament.

Second, crop insurance to protect farmers against the natural hazards of drought, hail, frost, etc., has long been demanded. Legislation to provide such insurance will also be introduced at this session.

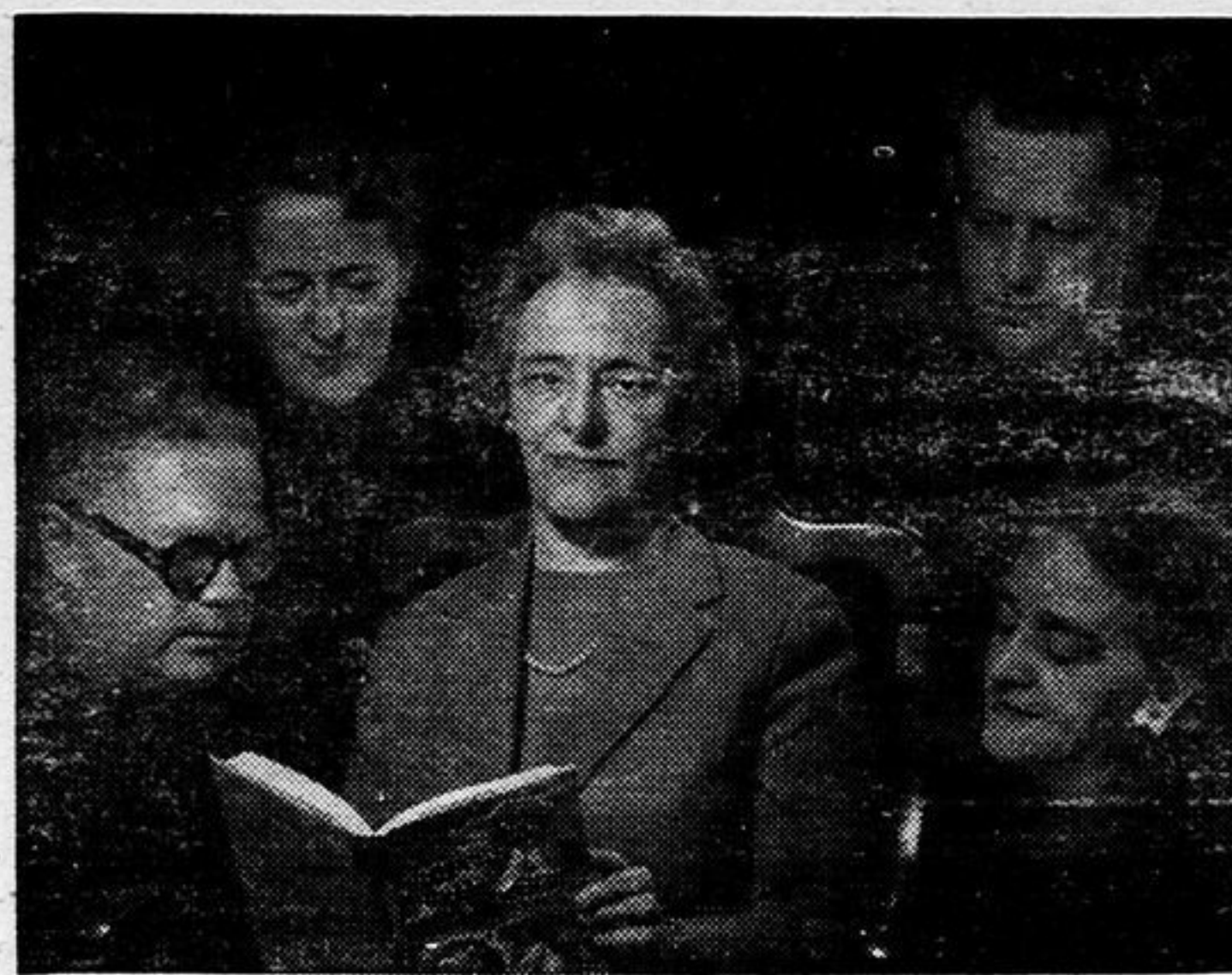
Third, soil and water conservation measures are, from the long-term point of view of preserving our ability to produce abundant supplies of food, the most important subject of agricultural concern. We had a preliminary conference with representatives of all the provinces last November in regard to a national conservation program, and arrangements were made for a full scale conference early in 1960, at which we hope definite arrangements can be made to put into effect a practical and far-reaching soil and water conservation program.

Fourth, the latest census returns showed that 38% of all Canadian farms had gross cash income of less than \$1200. per farm. It is quite evident that these farms cannot provide anything like a reasonable standard of living to a farm family, and one of our great necessities, both from the economic and social point of view, is a rural re-development scheme which will provide opportunities for consolidation of some of the small, uneconomic units into ones capable of providing a reasonable living for a family; which will provide training opportunities for part-time employment off the farm; and which will provide training opportunities to fit members of these farm families for either full part-time employment in other industries.

These are but four of the most important steps which must be taken to improve the long-term position of agriculture. There are many others which come up constantly from week to week and month to month.

Unemployment and inflation are also linked closely to the world situation today, and our own situation will, in no small measure, be influenced by world conditions. At present, continental Europe is suffering an economic setback—we hope of only a temporary nature—but it does affect our export trade. Much of this lies in the continuing unstable political situation recently aggravated by the Berlin problem.

The Berlin situation is one of the most serious international problems we have had to face in some time. The U.S.S.R.—that is Soviet Russia—in effect threatened the world by their announced stand to withdraw from their agreement respecting Berlin during the month of May, and turn over



"GHOST" WRITERS

Dr. Helen Creighton of Dartmouth, N.S., is seen surrounded by "ghost" writers who are adapting stories from her book Bluenose Ghosts for a summer series of stories CBC radio. The programme, Bluenose Ghosts,

is heard each Friday on the Trans-Canada network. The script-writers, all from Nova Scotia, are (reading clockwise) Doug Fraser, Kay Hill, A. H. Matheson and Barbara Grant-myre.

the control of the pathways to Berlin from West Germany by air, rail, road and water, to their satellite communistic government, East Germany. We are pledged to maintain Berlin, along with the United Kingdom, France and the United States. If the Soviets persist in their stand, and create an extremely delicate situation in which local armed conflict could result, which could become world wide. Fortunately, however, the Soviet attitude now seems to be softening, and there is greater hope for a reasonable solution without armed conflict.

The U.S.S.R. is making a desperate drive to stabilize its own position for the benefit of its own people, including the policies of a communistic dictatorial regime.

This endeavour of the Soviet Union is reflected world wide in the economic position of many countries. Many of the world's countries are newly formed, particularly in Africa and Southeast Asia. All of them have social and economic problems of tremendous magnitude and, consequently, all have problems of a political nature to face, and to be solved by newly established governments. Many of these newly established governments are attempting to operate democratic regimes only one step away from colonial status.

To and for these developed nations, we in Canada must be prepared to assist to the best of our ability as we may be called upon to do.

Many of these new countries look to us for moral, and also

tangible support because of our own evolutionary progress from colony to statehood in our own right, and now, our present position in the world community of nations.

The world situation can be dangerous. An understanding of it is the prime requisite for being of help, and with this, the full realization that the social and economic problems of the world that can lead to war, can best be solved by action in the field of political economies rather than on the field of battle.

And so, Ladies and Gentlemen, as this session of the House of Commons proceeds, progress can be reported—progress towards an improvement in the world situation and, particularly, progress in our own domestic economy. There is still a long way to go but, in my opinion, the present government at Ottawa is taking firm, sound and progressive steps to enable all Canadians to obtain a fuller life.

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