

*The Address*

**An hon. member:** It would be impossible to hush you up.

**Mr. Simmons:** I am delighted to see my friend, the new parliamentary secretary for fisheries, a gentleman all the way from Fraser Valley East. The one thing he does not have to worry about is any fish plants closing down in his riding. I am nevertheless delighted to have him on board and I look forward to working with him.

He is right. When it comes to the fishermen on the south coast of Newfoundland, it is going to be very difficult to shut me up. I am glad that he knows that much about me already. I am looking forward to working with him.

This throne speech is supposed to be the government's plan of action, the government's road map for the next few months or a year or two, and yet in it there is not a thing, not a thing that would give any comfort or any sense of direction or any hope to those unemployed, to those fishermen, to those farmers, to those forestry workers among others I have mentioned.

Like others who sit in this House I am a politician, and I am proud to be a politician. One of the things I believe all of us in this House have learned very quickly upon becoming politicians is that you cannot be all things to all people but you ought first to listen to what they are saying.

Second, you cannot take them in a direction they do not want to go. That is where this Prime Minister is making one terrible mistake, though I suspect it is not an inadvertent mistake so much as it is a calculated risk which he is blundering on very badly.

The attempt to take people where they do not want to go, by that I have in mind the free trade agreement, the goods and services tax, the shutting down a rural post office, the abandonment of railway lines. People have identified with all those issues and they are having difficulty dealing with now. I am thinking again of goods and services tax, the free trade agreement and other issues.

I realize from your signal, Mr. Speaker, that my time has almost expired, so I will conclude very quickly by saying that this Prime Minister's terrible legacy to this country is threefold. He is perpetrating the shutdown of

rural Canada. He has already wrecked the Canadian economy. Now he has brought a once great country to the very brink of collapse. I intended to say more about each of these, but I see that my time is up. I thank you, sir, for your indulgence.

**Mr. John A. MacDougall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I listened very carefully to the hon. member's comments. I guess that is the difference between those of us who sit on this side of the House and those who sit on the other side.

This government recognizes that we have to move in a new direction and that new challenges are faced in the world. The hon. member spoke about the GST. The party that he represents was in power for 20-odd years. Numerous reports were sent forward to the finance minister at the time, recommending to him that changes be made so that the federal sales tax, which was an anchor around the industrial community, be changed to a fairer tax. But they did not have the courage to do so.

History will show that the unpopular moves which have been made by this government are the ones that will ensure our young people and our grandchildren have the opportunity to meet those challenges.

Is the hon. member prepared to stay in yesterday's world, in a little cocoon? Is he not willing to move forward to the challenges facing Canadians? With the policies that he believes in we cannot play on an international field. Is that what he has been saying to us?

**Mr. Simmons:** Mr. Speaker, one would have to agree that my hon. friend comes up with wonderfully interesting question. They have very little relevance to what I had to say, but that is completely beside the point.

Let me go back to his earlier point before I answer that question about yesterday. I thought the hon. member illustrated very well the very point I was making.

• (1710)

We remember his speech which he read very well. We must admit that regardless of who wrote it for him, he read that speech marvellously well.

**Mr. MacDougall:** I did not read a speech. I do not have to read a speech when I want to tell exactly what rural Canada is talking about.