

The Address—Mr. Darling

Mr. Foster: Mr. Speaker, I mentioned this because I think it is a very important concept. The Government said that it would give greater security, confidence and certainty to the business community. In my opinion, the decision not to allow the implications of a joint venture on a limited partnership only adds uncertainty to the situation. I suggest that it is really a cop-out.

Apparently there were eight such cases before the Department of National Revenue. Two of them, Algoma Steel and Tembec, would create substantial jobs. We are talking about 700 jobs in the case of Algoma Steel. Algoma Steel wanted to form a joint venture or limited partnership in which some of the tax credits and capital cost allowances of the corporation would be used by another corporation under a limited partnership. This would mean 700 permanent jobs that are desperately needed in our own area.

I understand that a similar situation exists with the Tembec company which is about 100 miles north of Ottawa. If such an undertaking would create jobs, why could the Department of National Revenue not say that it would allow it and give the advance ruling? Why could it not do that in the case of Tembec?

If there were corporations which were putting together non-productive, limited partnerships that would not create jobs, the department could refuse to give an advance ruling in such a case.

The Prime Minister came to Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma twice in July to say that he would see that the plant would be completed. When the company laid down its proposal at a meeting in September, there was no indication that the Government was going to disallow it. Lo and behold, two weeks later this advance ruling by the Department of National Revenue was outlawed so that the opportunity to complete this \$350 million tube mill is foreclosed.

I realize that the Hon. Member is saying that the advance ruling mainly applies to this kind of circumstance, but it is in these kinds of circumstances where the Government is, in effect, copping out from its responsibility to give advance rulings.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The time for questions and comments on the Hon. Member's speech has now expired.

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, it is certainly a privilege for me to say a few words about the Speech from the Throne as well as the statement by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) last Thursday evening. At this time I would also like to congratulate the mover of the Speech from the Throne, the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. James), and the seconder, the Hon. Member for Montreal-Mercier (Mrs. Jacques). I think it is rather unusual that two seatmates moved and seconded the Speech from the Throne. I also believe that they have the same name because, according to my limited French, I believe the names "Jacques" and "James" are the same.

The Speech from the Throne commencing the Thirty-third Parliament was certainly impressive. Much to the disappointment of the Opposition, it did not go into great detail. However, the Speech from the Throne certainly charted a course. The statements and remarks of the Minister of Finance of last Thursday evening clarified a good deal of what the Canadian people want and are expecting. Canada now has, shall we say, returned to the land of the free.

● (1250)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Darling: This Government is going to free Canadians from a mushrooming deficit. If any statement or message was given to the people of Canada by this new Government, it was that something had to be done to reduce the deficit, to put Canadians back to work and to give Canada's private industry and its entrepreneurs a chance to see what they can do. Past government mismanagement and mishandling of programs and its entry into the private field proved most unsuccessful.

As we are all aware, we are now faced with 1,400,000, give or take, unemployed. Band-aid approaches give some short-term assistance but the idea is to get Canadians, young and old, back to work in long-term, challenging and, let us say, permanent jobs.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) at this very moment is meeting with the Premiers of the provinces to discuss plans for the future of Canada, to set up goals and various projects for a First Ministers' conference some time early in the new year. We wish them well in this endeavour. Future conferences will be of a different type. First Ministers will sit down and discuss on an friendly basis, and I can emphasize "friendly", rather than on a confrontational basis, the way it was in the past.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Darling: Possibly a year down the road at the conference we will see another Conservative Government representing the Province of Manitoba joining in to discuss the future of Canada.

Mr. Manly: Not likely.

Mr. Darling: I notice that last remark of mine did not register too well in the NDP section of this House.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Darling: I listened with a great deal of interest when the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) criticized the Throne Speech for references made concerning consultation with the private sector. That attitude is the chief reason his Party went down to a crushing defeat on September 4. When I think back to that great statement of Mackenzie King, it reminds me that the present 40 Members are in the valley of humiliation from which it will take a great many years to recover.

Canadians should take great comfort in knowing they now have a government that will listen. I want to emphasize that,