

The Address—Mr. Clark

They said that the bill is—

inconsistent with the federal government's view that no government in Canada should in any way inhibit free movement within the country.

They said:

—a few provisions of the law are of doubtful constitutional validity, while certain other provisions might be found to be unconstitutional depending upon their application in practice.

● (1602)

These are the views of the government of Canada, but this government which has those views does not have the courage of its convictions. It does not have the courage to act on the advice it has received from its own law officers.

Mr. Basford: That's not true.

Mr. Clark: The Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) says that is not true. If he believes it is not true, he has a course open to him: he can make a direct reference to the Supreme Court of Canada of bill 101.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: It is obvious that under the circumstances a reference to the Supreme Court of Canada is the proper course.

An hon. Member: Make it.

Mr. Clark: Someone, in ignorance of the law, says, "Make it". I cannot make it; only the government can make it, and it should make that reference now. However, it will not do so, and the people of Canada who are affected by bill 101 will wait and wait to know what their rights are, when the government of Canada could obtain a judgment and a decision right now.

We in the official opposition pledge ourselves, at the beginning of this parliament, to make a continuing, positive contribution to the work of this House. We will support positive legislation and actions by this government. We will work to improve its legislation, as we have done, with effect, in the past. We will work to ensure its consultation with the provincial governments, as we have continually urged in the past. However, we will also demand that this government deal directly with the realities of Canada.

Our falling dollar is a symbol for all the world to see. We know, the people of Canada know and the nations of the world know, that this government, through its incompetence, has mismanaged our affairs, squandered our human and material resources, mortgaged our future, generated regional alienation, inspired social and cultural discord, and introduced insecurity into the hearts of the people of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Clark: The throne speech has one prophetic section at the very end. That is where it states, "Canada is now entering a new era". The speech goes on to say, "It can be an era of increasing confrontation, tension and division". That is what

[Mr. Clark.]

we have had, and that is what we will continue to have with this government.

An hon. Member: Finish the sentence.

Mr. Clark: I am prepared to finish the sentence. However, the point I want to make to the hon. member, whose most frequent intervention in this debate is to speak from his seat, is that we have had in this country, almost exclusively thanks to the techniques and methods of this government, a decade of confrontation. That has been at the root of the problems of this country. The hon. member wanted me to complete the phrase. I will be delighted to do so, because the speech also suggests that we can go on to an era "of enhanced freedom, co-operation and unity of purpose". That is what we will have when we get rid of this government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: The Prime Minister is fond of speaking about the need for structural reform in Canada. That phrase, "structural reform", appears again and again in the throne speech. To take this country into the new era, of which the throne speech speaks, one fundamental structural reform that is needed—and that, sir, is to fire this government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: I, therefore, move, seconded by my colleague, the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens), that the following be added to the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne:

This House regrets to inform Your Majesty that the incompetence of Your Majesty's ministers has damaged Canada's economy and undermined confidence in it at home and abroad.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would first like to join the members of the House who expressed earlier to the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Stanfield) their deepest sympathy on the death of his wife Mary. In the last several months, we were all happy to see that she was getting better and we hoped that she would still be among us for us to see, as we had so often in the past, her smiling face and her great kindness at the social gatherings that we had the pleasure to attend.

I would simply like to express on my behalf and on behalf of all members on this side of the House our deepest regret and sympathy at this great loss. I would like to join the Leader of the Opposition who expressed earlier his satisfaction at the fact that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Canada has given us, parliamentarians, the opportunity to be associated with her jubilee celebrations.

I would simply like to add once again that we wish Her Majesty and all members of her family a good health and happiness not only in this jubilee year which is coming to a close, but for all the years to come. I am also in agreement with the Leader of the Opposition who congratulated the