

reduce to a minimum, short-sighted, extravagant, wasteful and non-productive programs which are too often aimed at securing the allegiance of the electorate, rather than contributing to a healthy economy. We, as individual citizens, pay a heavy price for the organizations which we have put in place to deliver the goods and services our society requires.

Recently I listened with admiration and respect as the leader of the Quebec Liberal party spoke in the Assembly on the crucial issue of Quebec's place in Canada. That speech was a model of lucidity, of calm and temperate argument, of forthrightness and honesty of which all Canadians can be proud. I am sure that you will agree, Mr. Speaker, that when he spoke of his love for Canada, of his roots in this country and of the roots of all Quebecers, and when he said that the attachment of Quebecers to Canada was "visceral", it was difficult indeed not to be moved by the sincerity of his patriotism. May I say that I share those sentiments, as I am sure does every Quebec member in this House.

Sometimes as one considers the dark and terrible problems hovering over the world, one cannot help but think that we in Canada, regardless of the language in which we express ourselves, are indeed fortunate. At the same time we recognize the existence of individual dissatisfaction, anxiety, dislocation and anguish among both young and old. I attribute these reactions to the phenomenon of depersonalization and institutionalization which is so much a part of our lives.

On a world scale, it would appear useful to review the highlights of the report of a commission headed by Willy Brandt, former chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. This report, representing years of independent study by 18 world leaders, was submitted to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kurt Waldheim, on February 12, 1980, and is entitled, "A Program for Survival".

The picture is one of a world in which the economic system of production, distribution is progressively breaking down.

Starvation, inflation, disorder, escalating unemployment, international monetary confusion, competition for energy, food, and raw materials, increasing population, advancing deserts, overfishing and pollution are some of the horrors described in this authoritative document.

Let us look at some of the specifics. In the western world there are 18 million people out of work. This unemployment is largely located in countries where a subsistence level is required in order to purchase food and provide shelter and heat.

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Irreversible destruction of the ecology is taking place in a number of countries, many of them ranked among the world's poor nations. Deforestation is going on apace, and present world wood stocks will be cut in half by the year 2000. World population is growing by one million every five days. There will be two billion additional people to feed in the next 20 years, and there are 800 million below the subsistence level today.

The Address—Mr. Desmarais

In the affluent society of the west, each person consumes 100 times as much energy as people in the poorer countries of the Third World.

These are among some of the more chilling facts in the Brandt report. I do not cite them in order to impress or stun the House, but merely to show the powerful and cumulative impact of the failure of our system to reach those in greatest need.

The Brandt report makes a powerful appeal for a tough, hard-nosed and realistic approach involving, it is true, sacrifices on the part of the west. Better enlightened sacrifice now than chaos later!

The Brandt report calls for a world summit to consider a massive transfer of funds to developing countries, an international energy strategy, a global food program, and reform of the international monetary and financial system.

All of these proposals are worth serious study, and I am sure they will receive that study from the dedicated men and women at the head of our affairs. I know that the very gifted and knowledgeable Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) is aware of these initiatives and has them under study at the present time. We all recall his notable participation as the chairman of a world conference on north-south problems.

There is also a proposal for an oil strategy to guarantee supplies and prices in the world, and I am sure this is being studied with interest by the responsible minister.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, please let me emphasize my concern regarding our complex and massive institutions. Our institutions have become more powerful and egocentric than ever before. Governments, business, and labour all vigorously defend their point of view without realizing that they are doing so at the expense of the two-thirds of our population which happen to be unorganized. As a result our citizen is progressively losing his battle to shape his own destiny.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that it is a major objective of modern government, after basic needs are met, to create conditions in which the individuals, while retaining control over his identity and personality, can devote his leisure time to creative activities in arts and culture.

When one thinks of the golden age of the Renaissance, or the Victorian age in literature—a period when writers, artists, composers, architects, engineers, scientists, competed in excellence in Europe and America—these periods stand out for the productive use of leisure. Certainly, along with the Elizabethan age, as A. L. Rouse has written, they represented societies that were both dynamic and creative.

It is a fact that our society faces important problems in the economic and fiscal areas and in the areas of international relations and internal cohesiveness. We must address ourselves to problems of the economy and problems of internal unity.

I am confident that by skill, patience and understanding, these problems will be overcome and Canada will march into a new era or progress. But we must know where we are going and how we are going to get there. In the field of energy, we