

The Address—Mrs. Collins

Speaker and his deputies. I look forward to working with them. Also I congratulate all new Members and those who have been re-elected to the House. I know when I speak on behalf of new Members that we come here with a great sense of optimism and a deep sense of responsibility. I echo the words of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser), who asked last week that we all work together with a sense of civility and responsibility to achieve the ends required for all Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Collins: This morning I will speak only briefly about themes from the Speech from the Throne—economic renewal, social justice and national reconciliation. It would be appropriate first, in the tradition of a maiden speech, to thank my very good constituents in the riding of Capilano for their support and for electing me to this honourable position. Also I should like to extend my congratulations to my predecessor, the Hon. Ron Huntington, who served this House for 10 years and who served Canadians so well.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Collins: I thank my colleagues for joining with me in that expression of appreciation.

I do not know how many Hon. Members of the House have had the opportunity to visit Capilano. If they have not, they are certainly welcome as my visitors. It is perhaps the most beautiful part of this wonderful nation of ours. Geographically it is almost beyond one's sense of expression to describe its beauties. As one crosses the Lion's Gate Bridge and enters Capilano, one even smells the different scents in the air. When one looks up at the mountains, six months of the year they are capped with snow and ready for skiers; the other six months in gentle meadows receiving hikers. Perhaps my constituency is the only one in Canada where on a brilliant spring day one can ski down Grouse Mountain and five minutes later board a surf board on the beautiful ocean.

An Hon. Member: And it only rains at night.

Mrs. Collins: That is right. Along the seawall, rain or shine, one sees walkers every day inhaling the invigorating sea air. In the eastern part of the riding there is a busy port facility, with ships coming and going, plying foreign markets. There is also a major shipbuilding facility, one which I will be supporting and working toward. Only recently it received international acclaim. Further east one comes to Lonsdale McQuay, a bustling area where a new public market will soon join us with its lovely fruits and vegetables, only 20 minutes by seabus from the site of Expo.

As one's eyes lift up to the hills, one sees magnificent architecture. Capilano was probably the home of western architecture. There are homes with vistas of oceans and mountains enjoyed by the people of my riding. Then in the far western reaches of the island nestles Bowen Island where I spent many a happy childhood summer. It is 15 minutes away by ferry but hours away in the style of life. The general store

there is the focal point for news and views. Life carries on with a full appreciation of leisure.

For all its physical glories, Capilano's greatest wealth is its people, people who truly represent the strength of the country, whose beliefs are grounded in the twin sense of responsibility and service.

We have seen in the Speech from the Throne and in the economic statement which followed that our prospects for economic renewal are predicated upon a desire for less government intervention and great reliance upon the individual to accept the responsibility for risk-taking ventures, for capital growth and increased productivity. We believe that jobs will only be secured by the private sector, by risk takers who are prepared to invest in new ventures. In Capilano live the people who will make these prospects come true, people who wish to accept responsibility for risk taking and expanding new business ventures. They only want an economic plan which encourages, and a government which understands and responds to their needs as a facilitator, not as a competitor.

Each day I spend in my riding I am approached by men and women coming to me with ideas for new inventions, new business ventures and new desires to become involved in Pacific Rim trade. They come to me not for financial assistance; they come to me only to know whether our Government will provide the economic climate in which they can take those initiatives and look forward to some appropriate rewards.

Do not let us get the wrong impression. Capilano has also been ravaged by the recession which we have felt for the past three years. Many professionals in their mid-years have been laid off for the first time. Many small businessmen have faced personal bankruptcy. Many families of my personal acquaintance are perhaps living on a third or on half the salaries they enjoyed only three years ago. Many young people with whom I speak are fearful whether or not they will have the opportunity to contribute to our society.

However, the people of Capilano are now looking ahead. This past weekend that I spent with them we talked about the Throne Speech and about the economic statement, and they could see for the first time the opportunities these would provide. It has rekindled their spirit and their desire to move forward, to take the initiative and to make the investments. I applaud this Government for the initiatives taken in the Throne Speech, initiatives which will set us on this right direction.

● (1150)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Collins: Social justice is a major concern of people across the country and certainly of the people in my riding. I am indeed fortunate to have residing within the bounds of my riding the Squamish Indian Band, a Band which provides an example for native people across the country. Members of this Band have worked toward economic self-sufficiency, and with them and with the help of my colleague, the Hon. Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Crombie), I