

Turner (Vancouver Quadra) (p. 38) and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Broadbent (p. 46).

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, it is with a profound sense of humility and pride that I stand in this Chamber today to address my fellow Members of Parliament on the occasion of the Throne Speech debate. I feel humble because the people of Scarborough Centre have entrusted in me their confidence that my vote will be their vote and that my voice will be their voice in this magnificent House of Commons.

I feel pride because I am part of a new and exciting Progressive Conservative Government, one which will lead Canadians to a better future, prosperous and free. This sense of pride and optimism is shared, I believe, by all new Members of Parliament. Certainly it was clearly expressed by the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. James) in moving the Speech from the Throne and by the Hon. Member for Montreal-Mercier (Ms. Jacques) in seconding it. I wish to salute the eloquence of these two colleagues.

[*Translation*]

I wish to extend my sincere congratulations.

[*English*]

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the view from these Private Members' benches is quite marvellous. In one long sweep of my eye the entire Chamber is visible. To my left, to my right and out in front there is a sea of new Government Members, and, of course, across from me sit the Opposition Parties, one of which is "official", but perhaps only in name alone.

The view across these government benches is indeed clear, Mr. Speaker, as clear as the mandate which our Party received from Canadians on September 4. Canadians are tired of negativism. They voted to change the old ways and habits of government. The Throne Speech marks a real start to the fulfilment of this mandate. Many of the initiatives outlined in the Throne Speech relate directly to the good people of Scarborough Centre whom I proudly represent in this House of Commons. First and foremost, the people of my riding are common sense people. They work hard, take care of their homes and apartments and know the value of a dollar. The Government's goal to reduce the deficit through economic growth is therefore strongly welcomed by my constituents.

As well, the residents of my riding understand the value of consultation and consensus. Scarborough Centre is a suburban riding within the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto. Its people live and work as neighbours. They know that the common good is advanced when people work together. Thus the people of Scarborough Centre strongly support the declaration in the Throne Speech of a new era of national reconciliation. Together we can and will do better.

There are over 1,000 industrial, commercial and retail businesses in Scarborough Centre. Dozens of light manufacturing firms, the backbone of small business in Canada, are to be found as well as several larger companies. However, my riding has recently been affected by the closure of a major electrical equipment manufacturing plant. Sadly, unemployment

remains high, especially among youth and older, mature workers. I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that measures proposed this week will have a strong, positive effect on the economic climate in Scarborough Centre.

● (1230)

Likewise my constituents are confident that the national economic summit to be convened early next year by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) will offer good news and fresh initiatives.

People of many different cultural backgrounds make their home in Scarborough Centre. I am proud to represent them all with a spirit of equality and fairness as enunciated in the Throne Speech. These citizens appreciate the Government's refreshing new attitude that multiculturalism is more than just displays of dances, costumes, and cooking; it is also full and complete equality of opportunity throughout the land.

Senior citizens comprise a significant portion of people in my riding. No less than six major seniors' residences are to be found in Scarborough Centre. All three levels of government have worked closely in the construction and administration of these homes. The proposed overhaul of the pension system will ensure that seniors in Scarborough Centre need never fear for the integrity and the security of their pensions.

The compassionate tone, Mr. Speaker, of the Throne Speech offers assurances not only to the elderly but also to the single parent family. Due to societal pressures, such families are more numerous today than ever before. This week the Government has spoken on the need to improve the child care system and to increase employment opportunities for women. Such measures are timely and demonstrate to Canadians that the Government they elected is Conservative but with a conscience. Indeed, that phrase, "Conservative with a conscience", aptly describes my own political philosophy as well as that of this Government. I feel an obligation to watch over both the welfare of the public accounts and the welfare of those people most vulnerable to hardship. For the past two years I have fulfilled this task while serving as the chairman of the Board of Health in the city of Scarborough. It is my hope to broaden such involvement in health issues during my term in the Thirty-third Parliament.

I believe that there are several emerging issues in the health field which will receive greater attention in the 1980s. First, of course, is the matter of cost. It is my belief that Canada must continue to move toward a community-based health care system in order to lower costs and increase responsiveness of care. Geriatric care will become a crucial issue as Canada's baby boom generation enters its senior years. I believe the Government must take the lead now to plan for this future trend. Private sector investment in chronic and geriatric care centres is an option which government should promote.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, a question of particular sensitivity has emerged in recent years in the health care field. I speak of the palliative use of heroin for terminal cancer patients. Canadians are compassionate people and I believe would accept legislation allowing such treatment.