

The Address—Rt. Hon. John Turner

hope that we will learn of the Government's position on this issue before very long.

[*Translation*]

I am happy to see that the Speech from the Throne contains a commitment to preserve both official languages and to protect language minorities throughout Canada. I note that the Government intends to honour its constitutional commitments to our aboriginal peoples. As we all know, these commitments were laid down in the Canada Act, 1982. They are constitutional commitments. However, this throne speech does not mention any progress with respect to aboriginal government, land claim settlements and other issues of interest to Canada's native peoples. We had hoped for more on this subject—

[*English*]

We are going to press for the fulfilment of the Penner Report. The Hon. Member still sits with us. We are going to press the Government to move toward allowing our Indian, Metis and Inuit people to move toward more self-government and more self-reliance and to assure them the dignity to which they are entitled. I regret very much that the Throne Speech did not address this particular concern.

We on this side would also have hoped for more reference in the Throne Speech to the development of all regions of the country, and for more special emphasis on correcting regional disparities and equalizing opportunities across the country. Where was mention of that in the Throne Speech? What support was there for building up the industrial sectors of this country? Why was that not in the Throne Speech?

I have travelled widely in western Canada since the election, Mr. Speaker. I gave a commitment to the people of British Columbia and the other western provinces that I would do my best to ensure that any government would bring western Canadians into the decision-making process and that that feeling of frustration, alienation and impatience could somehow be dissipated by allowing westerners to become more fully represented. I also gave an undertaking that I would make the Liberal Party more relevant again in western Canada. That is an essential priority for me. Canada is not just an Atlantic nation, Mr. Speaker. Canada is an Arctic nation and a Pacific nation. New prosperity in western Canada depends upon the Pacific Rim. Our trade, tariff and transportation policies must reflect this new reality and new direction. I congratulate the Government for making some reference to it in the Speech from the Throne.

Our Party, Mr. Speaker, stands for an independent foreign policy for Canada. We must have close relationships with all our friends and allies. We must keep our NATO commitment. However, we must never simply mimic American policy. Those are grand words in the Throne Speech about restoring "goodwill, partnerships" and "fruitful co-operation" with the United States. I am all for that. I echo those sentiments, but not at the expense of Canadian political sovereignty, the independence of our foreign policy or our cultural or economic integrity.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I sincerely hope that the omission from the Throne Speech of issues between Canada and the United States, such as acid rain, the bilateral problems we have with our fisheries on both the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts, and other bilateral problems, does not mean that the Government does not intend actively to pursue solutions on behalf of the people of Canada.

I am glad that the Government intends to continue the initiatives of the previous Government to upgrade our contribution to the NATO alliance. At the same time, we must not lose sight of the fact that while a strong defence is desirable and necessary, the ultimate goal we seek is peace. It is disappointing and I find it incomprehensible that the Throne Speech does not mention any commitment to the peace initiative of my predecessor, the Right Hon. Pierre Trudeau.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Trudeau has won tremendous respect and admiration in Canada for his efforts to establish a reasonable dialogue on the nuclear arms race. I have met many groups and discussed with them the very active role Canada can play in the search for peace. We shall be keeping a very close watch on the Government's activities in this area.

The throne speech mentioned the tremendous problems facing Third World countries. I would urge the Prime Minister at this point to ensure that Canada will continue to play an important role in reducing the economic gap between North and South.

[*English*]

I welcome the study of a parliamentary committee on Canada's role in the world, but what are we going to do in the meantime? I hope that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) will enlighten us in the House at an early opportunity as to what his views and those of the Government are and what priorities and new direction the Government intends to pursue. If this is a Government by study, let them have their study; but I would hope that the Minister, who has travelled widely and once held high public office, would honour us with his thoughts on an early occasion in this House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): What about all those undertakings and promises that the Tory Party made during the election campaign? During that election the Prime Minister, his colleagues and his candidates across the country showered an avalanche of promises on the heads of the people of Canada. We tried to count them. We gathered 338 together in a booklet.

● (1540)

I am sorry that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) is not here. He put a price tag of \$20 billion on those promises and then thought that that might have been generously low. We on this side of the House in the Liberal Party did not believe that