

er science program around its large computer facilities, an optometry faculty, a program of integrated studies, and the recently established innovation centre which will seek to do research and development in relation to the needs of small business.

Also, there is the Waterloo Lutheran University, as it was known previously. Today, it is the Wilfrid Laurier University. Through its theology faculty it maintains its roots with its former church affiliation. It has a very significant and vigorous business school, a consulting service to small businesses, a very fine social work faculty, as well as a first-rate music faculty.

In drawing this brief description of the riding I am proud to represent, I do so with pride because in the Speech from the Throne there was the call to harness the resources of the nation to nation building. Also, it contained an invitation to all Canadians in all walks of life to participate. The riding of Waterloo, amongst the ridings of this nation, is rich with resources. It has natural resources. It has human resources of body, mind and spirit. Also, it is rich in cultural resources.

I come proudly into this chamber, with all its history and with all of its importance for Canadian life, with a commitment to Canada and its future which I know is shared by my colleagues. I am grateful to God for this nation, its people and resources. Also, I am grateful that in my life I have had the opportunity to live on the west coast where I was raised, to live on the prairies, in central Canada and in the maritime community. For nearly five years I was associated on a daily basis with Canadian University Service Overseas—CUSO—as a co-founder and then the first director for West Africa, particularly Nigeria.

In my years of service abroad, I was able to see more clearly, than might have otherwise been my opportunity, Canada as seen from the world: Canada with its resources, its riches and its possibility to be a leader in the community of nations. Also, I was able to see something of the poverty and need of our world, to live through coups and counter-coups, and to realize how important this democratic Parliament is. I was able to see the importance of national, provincial and municipal institutions, ones which at times we take for granted.

Upon occasion, I was able to advise the Canadian International Development Agency in the direction of Canadian aid. I was able to see a number of the success stories of our effective participation with the so-called developing nations of the world—stories, which are so often not told because, unhappily, it is the bad news, which is often told and not things which are significant. Also, I had the opportunity of serving as a public servant. I recognize the importance of the contribution made by the public service in the nation's capital, as well as provincially within Manitoba. I was a consultant to the government of Prince Edward Island. I was able to see the importance at all levels of government of those who work behind the parliamentary process.

For the past 8.5 years I have been deeply involved in the life of the city of Waterloo as minister of Knox Presbyterian church and an alderman. There were influences and many

encouragements to my participation in the democratic process which formed my life. I am grateful for the mood and the focus of my constituents; for their pride in Canada, a pride we share together; for a world-view which has come out of immigration throughout the years; and for a sense that Canada shall play a responsible part in the community of nations. I am grateful to political leaders who have come from that area into the life of this nation, to those who teach and those who have taught me. I am grateful to my colleagues in the public service and the church. I am grateful to my family who permitted me to make this entry into elected public service.

In response to and support of the direction of the Speech from the Throne, I want to speak for a moment about my concern for national unity and for young people who are vital to national unity. I see across the nation tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of young people who have completed higher education in order to be equipped and able to enter the life of our nation. I am anxious lest their enthusiasm, energy and commitment may not be channelled into our common life.

● (1250)

I see high unemployment and among the unemployed far too many young people. I am encouraged at the direction and thought of the Youth Employment Secretariat, soon to be upgraded and instituted by the government. But I am concerned that in the days that lie ahead we may, as financial crises continue in our nation, not be able to utilize these young people and somehow their lives may become filled with bitterness and disaffection.

I would propose for the consideration of members of this House and the government the concept in Canada of a national youth service. This concept would encourage all young people who complete training in universities, community colleges or CEGEPs across the land to be required to invest two years of service to Canada. This service might be in the military, in CUSO, in voluntary agencies, in business or in industry. It might be in the civil service at the federal, provincial or municipal level; it might be in northern development or with community agencies within our inner city.

This would, obviously, require major consultation with all levels of government, industry and labour; but it would provide for every young Canadian two years during which they could serve the nation. They could, together—like those who served in war years—be under uniform terms of service and pay. In the process of national service they would learn about Canada; they would work in different areas; they would help build Canadian society—and they would begin to feel the sense of belonging, as many of us do in this nation. They would, as well, repay the investment made in their university and community college education. This would give these young people a working experience which would allow them to compete in the work force. Other nations have done this. It will be my hope to encourage consideration of this concept by the govern-