

The Address—Mr. Simmons

which I especially like about the Throne Speech. We have the youth opportunity fund, the establishment of a Ministry of State for Youth, the National Voluntary Service, Environment 2000, a number of particular and specific initiatives to help address a very difficult problem.

Nor are the elderly forgotten in this speech. We have given notice that we intend once again to increase the guaranteed income supplement, not the first time this Government has done that. We should remember that this Government and previous Liberal Governments made possible the whole safety net of payments for the elderly. We are very committed to this particular program and we are going to continue to implement increases as the need arises.

I have mentioned, Mr. Speaker, some of the initiatives which, properly implemented, will go towards achieving a stable society. However, it should not be forgotten that no matter how thorough a government is in discharging its domestic responsibilities to the electorate, it cannot overlook, ignore or turn a blind eye to the international situation and the potentially disastrous implications for Canadians of the current cold war confrontation. I as a Canadian, a Member of this Party and supporter of the Government have watched with particular interest the initiatives taken by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to cool the rhetoric, get people at the international level talking again, slow the arms race and get people back to the table; in short, to do whatever has to be done to make this world a more peaceful place. I have watched the detractors and those who were praying for failure put their politics well before their obligation to Canadians as a whole. We have learned to live with that kind of politicking in this country. I have been encouraged that the Prime Minister is persistent where lesser men would have thrown in the towel. The goal he pursues is a goal of all of us. If he succeeds we will be the richer; if he does not, we will all be the poorer.

• (1240)

I listened to the previous speaker make one of the more vindictive and unwarranted attacks I have heard on the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan). It is really sad when one has to use that kind of tactic to try to make a point. Has there ever been another politician anywhere, of whatever political stripe, at whatever level of government, who has brought more commitment and devotion to the job than the Minister of Agriculture? Is there anyone who has a better record of achievement for the constituents he represents here than the Minister of Agriculture? I am speaking about his farming constituency. It is easy to stand up and denigrate, run down and bad mouth. The Minister of Agriculture has done some magnificent things for Canadian agriculture and he will continue to do so.

An Hon. Member: Name them.

Mr. Simmons: The detractor says "name them". I would need days, Mr. Speaker. The Speaker tells me I have only two minutes left for my speech. Perhaps I could have a little seminar with the Tories behind the curtain in which I will inform them of some of the great things the Minister of

Agriculture has done for the farmers of Canada, including farmers in parts of my own riding. I could, Mr. Speaker, were there time, talk about the initiatives which this Throne Speech takes in the area of the fishery, a subject which is very dear to my heart. I could speak about the issues which are raised in this Throne Speech to address particular problems in Atlantic Canada. I say Atlantic Canada because that is the area which I happen to represent here. I could speak equally about initiatives in other areas across the country.

I see, Mr. Speaker, that my time has expired. I will conclude simply by saying that I am very proud to be a supporter of a Government which puts forward a Throne Speech, not only with such imagination but with such a list of specific initiatives that will continue to build on the very solid foundation we have built as a Government to address the problems of the elderly, youth, unemployed and all groups in this country.

Mr. Jarvis: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member who has just completed his contribution. If my notes are accurate, he spoke about the Prime Minister's peace mission and indicated that there were those who were detractors praying for the failure of that mission. I do not wish to do the Hon. Member an injustice, but is he implying in any way that there are detractors and those praying for failure who occupy public office in this House?

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, I certainly included the gentleman from York-Peel (Mr. Stevens). I include the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney). I could specify other names, but perhaps I could help the Hon. Member by reminding him it was only last week when the Prime Minister made some very candid, instructive and helpful comments in Europe that there were those, including the Member for York-Peel and the Leader of the Opposition, who attempted to imply that somehow it was sacrilege these days to encourage a candid dialogue in the interests of peace. I have interpreted their shameful role in this as being detracting and trying to undermine what the Prime Minister was doing.

Mr. Jarvis: Mr. Speaker, just so that I clearly understand the Hon. Member, is he accusing the Hon. Member for York-Peel and the Leader of the Opposition of being detractors of the Prime Minister's peace mission? Does he include those two colleagues as praying for failure, as he described it, with respect to this peace mission? Would he confirm that? Is he willing to repeat those accusations outside of the House?

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, in responding to the first question, I very clearly said that I interpreted, as I believe most Canadians do, the despicable actions of the Hon. Member for York-Peel and the Leader of the Opposition in respect to the Prime Minister's statement in Europe as detracting. I very carefully did not link that to praying. I hope they pray but I do not know if they pray on this particular issue. I did not say that.

Mr. Jarvis: Mr. Speaker, does the Hon. Member accuse the Hon. Member for York-Peel and the Leader of the Opposition of being among those that he accuses of praying for the failure