

We export nearly 30 per cent of all we produce as compared with only 10 per cent for the U.S. and 15 per cent for Japan. We are the only major industrialized nation without secure access to an internal market of 100 million people. We are told we are going to lose our culture. That should be explained to Charles de Gaulle. Does one think that Charles de Gaulle

[Translation]

—the President of the Republic, the great defender of francophony and universal France—

[English]

—would have taken France into a common market, into a liberalized trading bloc, if he thought there was any doubt as to the defence of the French language and French traditions? I say it is nonsense. Canada's culture and dignity are strong enough to stand up in international trading blocs, create jobs at home and strengthen our culture and identity. We are not afraid to get out and try our best to compete with the best in the world. We know there is not a market big enough to provide the jobs we need.

The Government has managed to bring unemployment down since we have been here, but not enough. How are we going to do it? Trade is not a theory. Trade is not something that some professor goes on *The Journal* to talk about in abstract terms. Trade means jobs. Trade comes from investment, foreign and national investment. Trade enhances our productivity. It makes us more competitive. It strengthens us and gets us into new markets.

There is the diffusion of technology. It strengthens the cash flow of companies. There is a reinvestment factor which creates employment as well. Trade means jobs.

There is nothing exclusive about it. We are not talking about trade with the United States to the exclusion of trade around the world. On the contrary. The initiatives we have launched with Japan, with the Pacific Rim, with China, Korea and around the world, with the leadership, if I may say, provided by the Secretary of State for External Affairs at the GATT, indicates we are on two tracks, international, multilateral initiatives at the GATT, where we hope further to liberalize international trade and create opportunities, and a new deal with our largest trading partner, the most dynamic and richest market in the world on our doorstep. We say we can make a good deal for Canada which will bring benefits to Canada and provide new opportunities for growth and jobs for Canadian youth.

Let the timorous and the fearful fret. Let them say that Canada cannot compete internationally. Let them talk about the protectionism they want here. "Protect us", they say, "we are not big enough. Protect us against *les méchants de l'extérieur*. Give us the protection. Build tariff walls". This is for the weak and for those who care not about Canada. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that Canadians are competitive. Canadians are courageous. Canadians are daring, and I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that when the history of this day is written, it shall be

*The Address—Mr. Mulroney*

recorded who the daring were, and the daring were those who had confidence in Canada and in themselves.

We are moving as well in the area of comprehensive tax reform. We want a system which is more equitable and comprehensible.

● (1350)

[Translation]

As regards the Constitution, we have begun preparation for a new round of discussions which could bring Quebec finally to sign our Constitution under completely acceptable conditions. We all agree that this is a serious gap in our national life and that the situation must be remedied. The Constitution is the supreme social contract of our nation; it is, in fact, the deal made by the Fathers of Confederation. We all have a responsibility, which I readily accept, to convince the Premiers to consider the claims of Quebec with understanding and flexibility.

We are not going, as I mentioned in my speech in Sept-Îles and as I have been saying continuously since then, to reopen everything, and the Quebec Premier is in complete agreement on this point. We must proceed with care and Senator Murray, federal Minister Murray, together with his counterpart Mr. Rémillard, is taking positive steps in this direction. Unless we feel there is a reasonable chance for all parties to carry out the negotiations to a successful conclusion, we will not reopen the constitutional debate. There is no doubt that Canada will have ultimately to find an acceptable formula for Quebec, for the Quebec of today. It is indeed a province with a difference. We have different roots, a different culture and the French language which is different... Thank goodness, it is a language which contributes to our Canadian identity.

All First Ministers who are now unavoidably involved in the constitutional game and negotiations should consider this new formula positively, with open-mindedness and generosity, because all Honourable Members would certainly agree that we have a strong, noble and even moral obligation to try and find a proper formula which would make it possible for Quebec to definitely return to the Canadian fold.

[English]

On behalf of all my colleagues in the Government and on behalf of our Party I say something that I suppose is obvious. We have never claimed in this Party or in this Government to have any monopoly on virtue or wisdom. I suppose that is clear. We came into office, as we said at the time, with our imperfections. We did not ask for a lifetime contract; and I suppose it is unlikely that we will receive one. However, we are striving day in and day out for a better Canada. We are the trustees of those things which our people hold dear, the aspirations of one generation for the next. Our Government's Speech from the Throne, like the legislation which the distinguished Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) will set out before the House, has but one goal, that is, to build a