

*The Address—Mr. Dorin*

addressed in the Throne Speech as well as in the economic and fiscal statement last night in what I believe is a very positive way. As a Member of Parliament I do not have and will not have all of the answers to the many pressing questions facing Canadians today. I will, however, be searching for ideas and people with ideas to help me in my role as a Member of Parliament.

I will be consulting and seeking input from my constituents and others on the direction the Government has set. I will do the political leg work necessary to carry the ideas and views of my constituents directly to government, because I feel what has been missing in government in the past is that government has not been prepared to listen to the people and, furthermore, has lacked the political will to act once the consultation process has distilled and refined the ideas which have been presented.

Make no mistake, ideas abound. All Members will know that we here in Parliament are involved in a paper war. We are inundated daily with ideas and presentations of persons seeking to put forth their views. What we need then is to define the process through which all Canadians can be confident that their views will be heard in determining how best to proceed in the direction which the Government has established in the Throne Speech and also in the economic and fiscal statement, which I believe is an integral part outlining that direction, and also that they can be confident that, following proper consultation, the Government will act. For any Member of Parliament the greatest occupation is to serve others and make certain that those people less fortunate can be assured that their government will work with them instead of imposing policies without consultation.

It is obvious from this Throne Speech that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) strongly believes in consultation with the provinces, and the new Progressive Conservative Government has indicated its willingness, and indeed intention, to co-operate with the provincial governments and all involved sectors in major policy areas.

The key issues covered in the Throne Speech by my Government are important to my constituency and the Province of Alberta. The specific areas of economic recovery, international trade and parliamentary reform are of utmost concern to me. Alberta's views must be heard at the federal level, and the new Progressive Conservative Government has indicated its willingness to hear them.

The economic renewal three-part strategy plan announced in the Throne Speech refers to removing impediments to growth, seeking national consensus for economic direction, re-invigorating investment, and enhancing private sector risk taking and innovation among entrepreneurs.

As a chartered accountant by profession, it is obvious to me that, through consultation and co-operation rather than through confrontation, this new Government can adequately respond to regional difficulties when presenting national economic policies.

The initial introduction of a First Ministers' conference on the economy, followed by a national economic summit will join important groups together for the task of constructing a national economic consensus. This summit will be justly represented by all groups: women, consumers, native peoples, labour, business and government.

Alberta cannot prosper without international trade. It is vital that we continue to contribute to our growth and survival. Canada has a vital stake in the elimination of barriers to trade, commerce and investment on an international basis.

Any further protectionist moves by the United States or other major trading countries could have a very negative effect on Canada's and Alberta's trade expansion opportunities. The future of Canada and Alberta in this area must be keyed to our success in penetrating these markets with world level technology, fully reliable export capacities and transportation networks, and a skilled, highly productive domestic work force.

Since Canada is a trading nation—more than 30 per cent of our Gross National Product is derived from exports—changes in the international trading environment have important domestic ramifications. Government must play its part by creating the climate and fostering the entrepreneurial spirit needed to realize new products and processes and to adapt and develop innovations. My colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), in his economic and financial statement which was presented last night, made specific reference to directions for change in increasing industrial research and development.

● (1540)

Canada has begun to experience other structural shifts as well, such as an increase in the average age of the population, slower population growth, alterations in demand for consumer products, and greater output shares accounted for by the service sector and the high-tech industries. All of these now demand enormous adaptation and adjustment. I am convinced that the most constructive role this Government can play is to concentrate our attention on creating a kind of environment in which the private sector can do what it does best, which is to create new jobs and new prosperity.

Increasing private-sector confidence and investment in the Canadian economy will result in the security of employment and jobs in Alberta. The quality of our economy rests on the self-reliance of individuals, and that requires room in order for creativity to be expressed. In this respect, our concern for small business, Canadian ownership and access to new careers for women, minorities and young people entails a vital human concern central to our quality of life. To meet these aspirations as well as our economic challenges, it is important for our society to encourage people to innovate and to create.

Economic growth is a social necessity because it will enable us to continue to invest in social programs. As we were reminded, people and not statistics are what economic growth is about. For us, this is a far more ambitious and indeed a far more compassionate concept than a safety net of food and shelter for the less fortunate. Rather, it is the provision of necessary resources and help to reduce dependence and to