

[English]

The Prime Minister was also going to usher in a new era of pristine non-partisan appointments. Gone would be the days of political patronage. That was the shortest-lived promise on record. Some 20 minutes after he and his colleagues were sworn in the Tory patronage parade got underway, and it has been gathering speed ever since.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Yet the Prime Minister wonders why he is now criticized for packing government boards, agencies and tribunals with his cronies and Tory friends. I can only tell him that he did not have to do it; he could have kept his word. He had an option.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): While I am at it I will give him another option. Please give up the presidential style. I do not believe Canadians want their Prime Minister to have all the superficial presidential symbols, the flying wedges of mounties with the earphones, the motorcades, the official seal on the podium, the Hercules aircraft to carry the video equipment, the self-promoting embassy publications, and now the personal valet and maid on all foreign trips.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): It seems it would not do to have any wrinkles on the emperor's new clothes.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Through you, Mr. Speaker, I say to the Prime Minister, if you cannot tie one of those black ties I will send you a clip-on one. The Prime Minister hopes now that his political valet, Dalton Camp, will do the same for his policies that his personal valet does for his shirts. He now has one to press them and another one to stuff them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I returned to public life for two reasons. The first was to help to rebuild a great national party.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): That is coming along just fine.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The other reason was to lead. I am trying to respond to a feeling which I think will be shared by all Members of the House. I know that it is shared by most Canadians, after having spent another summer on the

The Address—Mr. John Turner

road. The feeling is that as a nation, somehow, despite all the benefits and the great heritage, we have not reached our potential as a nation. We have inherited the most bountiful heritage on the face of the globe in terms of land, water and resources. We have a sense of space, a spirit of the frontier, two languages, many cultures, a respect for the rule of law and a flourishing parliamentary democracy. We have seen bravery in four wars. I believe we live in the freest country in the world. Yet despite that we have not reached our potential. Our children feel it; they sense it. They feel that when they get out of school or college they will not do as well in life as we have done. They also feel that somehow we have let them down.

• (1250)

The Throne Speech proves that the Government has no agenda. I want to share some of my beliefs with the House and with the country. We must stand up for our country. We must reassert our patriotism and we must reassert our sovereignty. Some of us may wince when we see an American stand up in the morning and salute his flag or when we see an American stand with his hand over his heart when the national anthem is sung, but I think we need a little of that in this country. We need to stand up for Canada, to say that we are proud to be Canadians, and to assert that sovereignty. Nowhere should we assert that sovereignty more than in the current trade negotiations with the United States.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): We must think smarter and work smarter. We must focus on education, training, retraining, and research. I am flattered that the Government has stolen the proposal which I made months ago for a conference on post-secondary education; it is a good idea. However, if it continues to cut funding at the rate it has been cutting it, there will not be anything to talk about. When those discussions come up with the provinces, we must negotiate national standards on post-secondary education with them. We must marshal a national campaign against illiteracy. I am pleased that the Government is at least giving lip service to a program which I mentioned months ago. But, where is the program?

We need a national apprenticeship program to train our young people on the job so that they will have skills for tomorrow. We need to redefine our unemployment insurance scheme so that we have room to train and retrain Canadian men and women who have been laid off their jobs because of technological advances. We must learn to encourage and to reward excellence.

[Translation]

Third, we must achieve true equality of opportunity in Canada. The last two federal budgets widened the gap between rich and poor instead of narrowing it. We must reform our tax system and make it fairer, simpler and more equitable. We must look at the concept of a guaranteed annual income, to help the neediest in this country live with dignity. We must