

the women and men who have the love and understanding needed to act as step-parents.

Our society has produced many variations of the traditional family unit and entertaining a narrow view of the legitimacy and viability of these new families will not change the fact that they exist.

Of course, the family is not living in a state of perpetual harmony. The various pressures which it is exposed to both from outside and inside can potentially ruin the ability of even the best parents and that of their children to adapt. But now that the public has become aware of the problems resulting from the various types of violence against children, women and old age people, increased efforts are being made to prevent and eradicate this violence and understand its causes and consequences. I believe that in the difficult times we are living, we could do a lot by giving families and their members the necessary means to tap their own resources as groups and individuals.

Mr. Speaker, it is in that perspective and taking into account the fact that our society is only beginning to adjust to the new dynamics of family relationships and responsibilities, due especially to the increased number of families where both parents are working, that the Government, once the committee on child care has tabled its reports, will propose to Canadian men and women steps to make available adequate child care services.

In order to put together the best possible proposals to meet the needs of our community, discussions will be initiated with the provinces, the business communities and the unions to implement a concerted approach to child care.

As a wife of 27 years and as a mother of two children, I am delighted with this excellent initiative, because I am aware of the impediments which an active professional life can create to a rewarding family life.

Therefore, I recognize the value of the initiatives entered upon and I will wholeheartedly support any step aimed at making it easier for women to enter the labour market by providing them with the peace of mind of knowing their children are safe and well cared for.

I must also refer to the statements concerning effective action against child sexual abuse, violent forms of pornography involving women and children, child prostitution, and the serious and growing threat posed by the traffic in illegal drugs. As a former teacher, Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the use of drugs by young people, having been confronted with dramatic situations in which young people would lose control of themselves and even become violent. This is why I will support any measure put forward by this Government to stop that scourge. The future of our society is at stake. The Government has already indicated it is firmly committed to taking efficient measures against the serious threat of hard drugs. To that end, we will propose a national strategy for fighting against drugs, and our Government will continue to work in this country and abroad to stop the use of drugs by

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amateur athletes. These men and women often serve as examples for other young people who look up to them, and often envy their success. This is why we must be especially alert in that area. Certainly all Canadian parents will welcome those initiatives. Thus we will build tomorrow's society.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, may I say without reservation that I am very proud of the proposals contained in the Throne Speech. Those policies are a true reflection of the realistic sense of fairness and justice that is guiding the Mulroney Government. That is sound administration. The dawn of this new session is quite promising, because every Canadian man and woman are assured that the Government will spare no effort to follow up on the work already started, forge ahead on the initiatives already introduced, and introduce new ones. It is a privilege to be part of this Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions, comments? The Hon. Member for Verdun—Saint-Paul (Mr. Chartrand).

Mr. Chartrand: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments on the speech made by the Hon. Member for Louis-Hébert (Mrs. Duplessis), in order to add to her statements. She referred to high technology in Canada. The time has come in my view to realize how important it is for any civilized country, any progressive country to have very advanced technology, to increase its research and development effort, because employment will be so much better for our young people if that effort is made, if technology advances. This is what this Government has been doing since the beginning of its mandate—we have been trying to give the maximum for people to carry on the research needed, to improve on the quality of all Canadian products.

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In the area of jobs, it is a fact that this Government has produced jobs at all levels over these last two years. Creating jobs can only lead to one thing: the unemployment rate goes down throughout Canada, people are happy because they can work, they can feel useful and indeed prove to their family and all their fellow citizens that they are doing something for their country, that they are making a worthy contribution. Who is the real winner in all this? If people have steady jobs, make money and are prosperous, if technology is progressing, if new products come on the market, I think that invariably the consumer stands to gain, as the Hon. Member for Louis-Hébert pointed out. He or she will benefit from everything Canadians and the Government of the day have to offer.

The other major issue which she underscored is the reform of the Canadian tax system. Precious few former administrations had the nerve to acknowledge that our tax system is due for a thorough overhaul. Our Government had this in mind and came to grips with the matter so that the reform will soon take place. I would suggest that the Hon. Member displayed sound judgment when she said that the tax system reform is one of the highlights of the Speech from the Throne.