

Incidentally, I want to commend the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) on his question of privilege in the House this morning which allowed participants from all parties to express themselves on the issue he raised. I think it was a proud occasion in the House when we saw such unanimity among hon. members about certain comments which had been made outside this area.

I am aware of the traditional differences which historically have developed between the east and the west as well as between individual regions, misunderstandings which unfortunately seem to be increasing in intensity rather than decreasing. Perhaps it is due to the nature of modern day communications that we are instantaneously aware of regional advantages and disadvantages. It sometimes seems we have forgotten the hopes and dreams of the Fathers of Confederation as they struggled to unite this vast and diverse land into one great nation.

If we are to fulfil our duties in this House we must not forget that we all have a common bond—the bond of being a Canadian. Whether we were elected to represent a constituency in the east or in the west, we were elected to the Parliament of Canada. This institution is Canada, and if we are to fulfil our duties as elected representatives we must work for a common objective, and part of that objective is a better understanding of our fellow Canadians and the problems that are unique to the respective regions.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ferguson: I would suggest that the Speech from the Throne encompasses and reflects our heritage and our objectives when it refers to ensuring, and I quote—

—a strong country with first claim on the loyalty of all of its citizens; a country that regards diversity as an asset, not a liability; a country whose people share their wealth first with those who need it most; a country that encourages initiative, welcomes daring and promotes enterprise and a country which opens its eyes, its mind and its heart to the larger community of nations, refusing to regard its own national borders as the outward limits of the universe.

Ours is a great and beautiful country which has been blessed by vast and diverse natural resources as well as by as great and diverse human resources. We must look ahead in a positive manner and plan to develop, nurture and utilize those resources. Our greatest resource, of course, is our people. Let us give our young people the incentive and encouragement to travel throughout our land so that they, unlike many of us, may understand the diversity which is Canada and the cultures which have given us such a unique identity. I feel fortunate that my children have had the opportunity to travel across this land from west to east to see and understand its vastness and grandeur. I am proud, too, that they have learned to communicate with Canadians whose first language is French as well as with Canadians whose first language is English.

Another potential I am enthusiastic about is the potential of our renewable resources, and again, in this area, we are the

The Address—Mr. Ferguson

envy of the world because we can develop such a variety of energy sources. Like those early entrepreneurs from the oil industry we now find many young and energetic individuals utilizing crop and communal refuse in a manner which will allow us to conserve our non-renewable resources. We are enthusiastic about a more efficient concept of heating being developed by two young men in my constituency, a concept which will utilize materials presently considered to be waste. I trust that the Renewable Energy Corporation will be of assistance to such individuals and entrepreneurs. The alternatives are there and must be utilized as quickly as possible.

The over-all philosophy of the Speech from the Throne was one of a positive continuation of the potential of our nation, and certainly I am pleased to see included the proposal to establish the Canadian Agricultural Export Corporation that will enable our producers to sell abroad as Canadians, rather than seeing one province competing against another for the same markets. Such a vehicle will enable us to focus on specific markets and expand our sales abroad, utilizing the potential of a renewable Canadian resource. We are one of the few nations of the world with mechanisms in place to plan our production for specific markets and to sell on long-term contractual arrangements. The spinoff effects of such as positive move will create new jobs and be a boon to small businesses and the agro-industries in this nation.

These spinoff effects will not only give us a better balance of trade and thereby benefit all of society, but will enable farmers in Canada to work together as Canadians as envisioned by the Fathers of Confederation.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it 4.30?

● (1630)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It being 4.30 p.m., it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38(4), to interrupt these proceedings and put forthwith the question necessary to dispose of the amendment now before the House. The question is on the amendment. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.
And more than five members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Call in the members.