

● (1620)

[English]

I have already conveyed to my friend, the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party, my regrets at having to leave somewhat early to go to the airport to welcome the Prime Minister of France. However, before concluding I simply want to say that the agenda before the House as set out in the Throne Speech strikes me as being reasonable, appropriate and fair for the country. We seek an end to confrontation. We seek an end to division and conflict. We seek a new era of co-operation and understanding.

I am fully aware of the limitations of the thought itself. I know that there will be difficult moments. I think, for example, of the area of federal-provincial co-operation in which, for 15 years, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador asked for one thing of the Government. They asked for an honourable deal in the offshore and they were told consistently either to do it the Liberal Government's way or it would not be done at all. We applied the great traditions of building upon regions and, understanding the vitality and the necessity of that strength and in a spirit of honourable compromise, we went to Newfoundland—and we will be back again—to conclude an arrangement with Newfoundland and Labrador with regard to the development of that magnificent resource, in the firm belief that people from Newfoundland are entitled to fairness as well and that what is good and prosperous for Newfoundland is good for Canada.

[Translation]

And we have approached the West exactly the same way. We are going to negotiate with Ontario and Quebec. We are, however, going to stop building judo clubs in Quebec churches. That was a hobby of the Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet). We are going to or at least we shall try to reach some kind of agreement with the elected government of Quebec, and start a reasonable and intelligent dialogue in order to create jobs for Quebecers and Canadians. That is this Government's mandate, both in Quebec, Alberta and Newfoundland, and we intend to fulfil that mandate.

[English]

There is no suggestion, Mr. Speaker, not today nor during the election campaign, that we pretend to have all of the answers. We recognize the seriousness of the problems. May I say parenthetically to my right hon. friend that in regard to the litany that he not improperly set out, there was a very important caveat made in Prince Albert, in Sherbrooke and in Halifax. If he takes the time to read the statement that I released that day, he would see that we indicated that these programs and policies were good for Canada and would be introduced in a timely manner depending upon the state of the finances as we found them.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Address—Mr. Broadbent

Mr. Mulroney: Tomorrow night the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) will set this out in detail. The "Hon. Member for Shawinigan or Toronto"—

[Translation]

I am not too sure. Does a guy from Shawinigan go to Quebec City to practise law? No. To Montreal? No. To Shawinigan? No. To Toronto? Yes. I like Toronto, but I did not say during my election campaign: You have a choice between the guy from Main Street and the guy from Bay Street. The guy from Main Street is now the guy from Bay Street. I like both Main Street and Bay Street, and they both voted for our party.

[English]

So we put in the important caveat that these programs would be introduced. Pursuant to the statement that will be made by the Minister of Finance tomorrow evening, Mr. Speaker, we will bring forward programs that we believe are reasonable, that are important for the re-energizing of the Canadian economy, that are consistent with our traditions and that people can believe in. We believe that in this spirit of renewal and co-operation and in the search—and it is only a search—for a new consensus, we can and indeed we shall bring a new degree of prosperity to Canada and to Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1630)

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin my comments by referring to the speech of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) in a way that he will well understand. What I am about to say is not said in any mean spirit, but rarely have I heard a former truck driver talk so much about Bay Street, or a prime minister say so little about his Throne Speech.

I do want to begin, most sincerely, by congratulating both the mover and the seconder of the motion. These two Members spoke well, seriously and with conviction. I congratulate them on their beginnings in this Parliament.

I would like to speak about what I thought would be the substance of the debate—the future of Canada. Instead, what we had was a rehash of an election campaign which I thought had been put behind us. In that connection I say that the Throne Speech should assess the problems of a nation, regional, between groups and between individuals, and it should lay out in general terms a new Government's approach to those problems. It should not pretend to provide all the answers, but it should at least pretend to set a new direction and provide a new beginning for the nation following an election.

Without belabouring the problems—because the people of our country know the problems—I would like to indicate some of the matters which, in the view of my colleagues, and I think the vast majority of Canadians, ought to be addressed by this Parliament. Most of the problems ought to be addressed before the House adjourns for the Christmas break. I do not mean