

butting their heads against stone walls. They are tired of being denied the men, money and equipment to permit Canada to live up to its basic commitments to NATO and NORAD. They are tired of the lack of identity and pride. The external affairs policy review initiated by the former secretary of state for external affairs is now for naught. I am appalled, after being a member of this committee preparing a new white paper, that so much hard work and substance has been rejected out of hand by the present government.

I find it mind boggling that the government refuses to examine our foreign and military policies so that we can wisely chart our course for the future. But then, someone once compared the Liberal government to Christopher Columbus. When he set out he did not know where he was going; when he got there he did not know where he was; and when he got home he did not know where he had been. And he did it all on borrowed money—and the mini-budget bears this out.

The constituency of Simcoe South is comprised of some of the most beautiful countryside in the world. It is a tremendous tourist area in all four seasons of the year. We are blessed with Lake Simcoe on our doorstep. However, Lake Simcoe ails and she may never get better. She suffers from one of the very serious problems which threaten our environment, particularly the problem of acid rain. We have known of this phenomenon for many years yet we have done very little to cope with it. Acid rain is a potential killer. It is perhaps a form of apocalypse which is being visited on our lakes, on our forests and our agricultural crops.

Hanging in the balance is the cold water fish industry and the \$13.6 million it generates. In addition, the tourism industry has significant local economic and social implications and relies on good water quality. I am pleased that the government of Ontario has taken the first steps to restore the lake to its original state. I hope in his remarks the minister will bring things to a head with the U.S. government on the problem of acid rain.

I wish to discuss something that has been discussed by most members, something that touches all our hearts, national unity. The subject of national unity is very much in everyone's thoughts today. The New Democratic Party would lead us to believe that it has a united philosophy. It pretends to be the champions of the pensioner and those on low incomes, and this is also the philosophy of the Conservative party. But where is this united front as, in reality, it cannot agree upon which side the party is in the Quebec referendum? We are all aware of their divided opinion when it comes to the most critical question in Canada today.

I would like to discuss a subject which causes me great distress. It is the lack of an official national anthem for this country. How many countries in the world today have no official anthem? Very few. However, we in this great nation of Canada are in that unique position. "O Canada" is not officially ours and the song that our children proudly sing in school is not official.

In this august chamber, 282 members are dedicated, I hope, to the principle of national unity. Many moving speeches in

*The Address—Mr. Chénier*

this throne speech debate have been dedicated to that end. I ask, is it not sensible to begin a new spirit of unity, a spirit of confederation, by officially embracing the national anthem "O Canada"?

On June 6 the Post Office Department will issue a pair of commemorative stamps, the subjects of which will be the music and stylized portraits of the composers of "O Canada". On each miniature pane will be the message "Issued to celebrate Canada Day 1980". Yet that anthem is still not official.

Can you picture the United States without the official "Star Spangled Banner"? Can you imagine the stirring "La Marseillaise" as not officially French? We have "O Canada"—a moving anthem in both languages but never recognized by Parliament in statute. I believe this to be tantamount to sacrilege.

I have introduced a private member's bill as the only effective way to correct this intransigence. I appeal to the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party and all hon. members of this House to support this action and make the music of Calixa Lavallée, the French language words of Justice A. B. Routhier and the English language words of Robert Stanley Weir, collectively known as "O Canada", our official national anthem vested in the right of Canada, and that we promote it most vigorously in the name of renewed federalism.

I have mentioned but a few of the problems which confront us but to which there are solutions. I want to see a strong and united Canada. I want to see a vibrant Canadian industrial economy. I want to see a society with equal opportunity and social justice for all. I want to see a strong nation with all the symbols of nationhood in place and intact. I want to see a true spirit of confederation pervade this great land. I want to see our people protected and our environment preserved.

In short, I want to see the "true north strong and free"; and "O Canada", I thank God for the opportunity to "stand on guard for thee".

● (1630)

[Translation]

**Mr. Ray Chénier (Timmins-Chapleau):** Mr. Speaker, the throne speech has spared nothing to set the priorities enabling our new government to take up now and not tomorrow or in the year 2000 the challenges which must be overcome with concrete steps. First, I would like to congratulate the previous government which soon realized that the Canadian people deserved another opportunity to decide what party could better face historical events in the eighties. Our constituents have democratically decided that the Liberal party alone led by the right hon. Pierre Trudeau had the necessary boldness and imagination to get us out of that constitutional dilemma and solve our financial problems.

My constituents who have constantly shown their loyalty and their confidence to the Prime Minister since 1968 were not