

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Boyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was listening, with interest, to the speech by the Honourable Member for Elk Island (Mr. O'Kurley) and I want to congratulate him for having covered such a wide range of the issues that are now, as a result of the Throne Speech, before the second session of our 34th Parliament.

One of the many topics that he touched on, Madam Speaker, related to the Government's announced intention to establish a royal commission to look into many aspects relating to human life.

In the last Parliament when the soleful question of abortion was before us I proposed something along the lines of what I called a human life Act which would deal in a single comprehensive statute, outside of the Criminal Code, with the abortion issue, but also questions of surrogate motherhood, in vitro fertilization, fetal transplants, and many other aspects involving human life throughout the entire life cycle from beginning to end.

I would just like to ask the Hon. Member, Madam Speaker, if he has any particular thoughts along this subject. His speech referred to many different initiatives by the Government, but in light of the announced intention to deal with this through a royal commission that will examine this full range of issues currently affecting human life from a scientific, medical, legal, moral and ethical point of view, if he has any particular thoughts that he might like to share with the House at this time that would be helpful as the Government makes its plans for the launching of this royal commission.

Mr. O'Kurley: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you for that very thoughtful question.

Madam Speaker, with regard to the question and with regard to the royal commission that will be set up, I think the over-all theme that should be considered while we are implementing this task force and implementing the strategies is that this task force will be dealing with a number of controversial issues. When we are dealing in the framework of morals and ethics there is sometimes great, great controversy. What I would suggest is that we should move towards a spirit of co-operation rather than

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towards what was, in the past, a spirit of confrontation. We should try to find ways of accommodating the wishes and the needs of both sides of an issue so that we can become more compassionate with regard to the views of others. And I think that with that spirit of co-operation we can achieve many things.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The period of questions and comments has now expired. Resuming debate.

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to rise today in response to the Government's Speech from the Throne read by Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada on April 3, and argued so forcefully today by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and yesterday by the Leader of the New Democratic Party, the Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent).

It is with a great deal of pleasure also that I return to this House after its recent three months recess, a recess during which I spent a great amount of time touring through my constituency meeting with people, ordinary Canadians who have expressed their concerns to me about everything from interest rates and drought relief to the delivery of postal services in rural communities and the price of wheat in Canada.

If there is one thing I learned on my visits to these kitchen tables, coffee shops and meeting halls it is that this Government now, only four months into its second term of office, has completely lost touch with the people of this country. If this Government, Madam Speaker, had spent any amount of time talking to the people about what it should do to turn this economy around, it would have brought out a Throne Speech, not a Throne Speech such as this one.

• (1630)

While I agree there is an international problem and the Government must be vigilant, it must be prepared to fight for Canadians in the international arena. However, the Government must also be prepared to stand by our producers here at home. We cannot abandon those producers while we go off and fight a foreign war. The Government seems to be doing just that.