

The Address—Mr. Boyer

working of our democratic process. That we were able in this country to change the government by lawful and peaceful means is something we should not pass by too quickly without reflecting on what it tells about the degree of civilization and common understanding of orderly government that we have achieved in this country.

Turning to the Throne Speech itself, Mr. Speaker, it does set a clear course. It does contain strong themes. It shows that we are launched on a new era of national reconciliation, economic renewal and social justice. There are three principles that will govern all which the new Progressive Conservative does in the weeks, months and years ahead. It does not, as many Members of the Opposition have noted, contain a specific shopping list of item after item. Those who have wailed and complained and been concerned that some specific detail was omitted should not be alarmed. The Government needs, and Canadians want, a theme, a philosophy, a coherent approach, a blueprint for action, not just a hodge-podge of programs. The details will come in time. At the outset of this new Government, Mr. Speaker, it has been fundamental to say clearly that the course we are on is one of national reconciliation, economic renewal and social justice.

The financial statement of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) reflected many hard choices which had to be made. I campaigned on deficit reduction and therefore I applaud the approach taken in the financial statement of the Finance Minister. I also campaigned on jobs and I applaud the approach of the financial statement in that regard as well. With respect, Mr. Speaker, I have heard a lot of silliness in the debate. Does anyone in Canada, including anyone in either of the Opposition Parties, honestly and sincerely believe that our Government does not want to create more jobs? Of course the Government wants to create jobs. The goal of everyone in the House is the same, to create jobs. The issue and the debate is on how to create them. Our answer is through economic recovery. That is one of the principles which will underpin the measures that will come before the House in the months ahead.

Before leaving the economic statement I would like to reiterate that in taking the tough approach which he has been forced to because of the size of the deficit, at the same time the Minister of Finance has demonstrated a great deal of compassion. The deficit will not be reduced on the backs of the poor, the seniors, or the unemployed. In fact, those groups are benefiting under the Finance Minister's program. The spouses' allowance will be extended to all widows and widowers aged 60 to 65. That is one of the issues upon which I campaigned in Etobicoke-Lakeshore. Further, veterans' pensions will be improved. The sum of \$1 billion will be set aside to create new jobs in 1985-86, not in make-work programs but in meaningful, long-term jobs.

● (1115)

I have been in the House virtually every day and have listened with care to what Opposition Members and indeed Members of my own Party have said. I have been amazed to

hear the great concern expressed by the Liberals and New Democrats about what is the Government's number one priority. They want to know if it is deficit reduction, jobs or the status of women. It is talk such as that which leads me to believe that those Members believe that only one matter can receive priority attention from a government. In fact, we have 40 Ministers and incredible bench strength. We can deal with peace, employment, economic equality for women, tax reform, parliamentary reform, jobs and deficit reduction at the same time. This Government does not need to have a single focus and indeed it has not. We are planning to move on many fronts.

Universality of social programs is indeed a sacred trust. This has been the subject of some discussion in the debate so far. Our Party stands today as committed as it did when the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker set the course for our Party and said that the means test is "the meanest test of all". There will be no means test. The pensions that are available to seniors in this country stand intact and will remain intact.

The Throne Speech also carries into greater definition the number of themes on which I campaigned in the summer election of 1984. I would like to quote some. In material that was distributed in Etobicoke-Lakeshore, I said:

Although Canada is the No. 1 country, there is much we can improve. There is unfairness and injustice here. There are special tax benefits for the wealthy and powerful. There are neglected people. There is still poverty. The language issue has been exploited for Liberal party partisan purposes. There are good Canadians working hard to improve themselves and their country but who are struggling to overcome problems and procedures which the bureaucratic mentality in Ottawa has imposed on them. There is a serious lack of national unity. There is too much emphasis on materialistic issues and we have overlooked the spiritual side of our existence, and those deeper values which unite us all in freedom as our brothers' keepers.

We must restore a proper sense of patriotism to this land. We must support the family—

Our religious institutions.

—and human dignity.

We must play a positive role for world development and pursue peace through strength.

The new Government stands astride the Canadian mainstream. Those who feel that the new Government of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) represents some kind of Reagan North or a Canadian version of the Thatcher approach in the United Kingdom mistake the knowledge and abiding traditions of the Progressive Conservative Party.

In the time ahead I will outline more about the theory and the philosophy of our Party. Today, I will refer only to a speech that I gave some 15 years ago at Sault Ste. Marie which was then reproduced on page 7 of *The Globe and Mail*. I stated at that time that our philosophy is based on the continual tension between its two fundamental traditions. On one side a basic foundation is the tradition of order and authority. It is this side which embraces peace, order and good government. The other foundation, equally important in supporting this philosophy, is the libertarian tradition. This is the side that embraces freedom and upholds freedom of the individual especially. Clearly, the philosophic superstructure built on traditions of stability and liberty is by definition