

The mover of the motion mentioned the quality of life. I should like to digress a little from the major concern that we all have in the area of unemployment and mention a few areas where the quality of life has been dramatically improved and new thresholds have been reached. Let us consider national parks where the Canadian public has a proper, new level of concern for the environment as it will affect future generations. In this government's four years of office our national parks have increased from 18 to 28.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): That is not an answer.

Mr. O'Connell: That is a 50 per cent increase. The hon. gentleman says that is nothing—

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): I said that is not an answer to the motion.

Mr. O'Connell: This is right on the motion, Mr. Speaker. I challenge the hon. member to deny that the motion is about the quality of life.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): That is not UIC; it is not the quality of life.

Mr. O'Connell: It is service to the people of Canada down through the future. There is a 50 per cent increase in the area set aside in perpetuity for national parks.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): On Baffin Island, the Northwest Territories, the Yukon.

Mr. O'Connell: Canada leads all countries in the world in land set aside for future generations. These parks are in every province and in the territories; they are in all regions.

What about the Great Lakes and the treaty we hope to make with the United States to service all Canadians in terms of the quality of life? I think this is an answer to the motion before us. Already the government of Canada and the province of Ontario have an agreement with respect to the Canadian contribution to the clean-up of the Great Lakes so that future generations may benefit and that the Canadian economy and society as it is built around that Great Lakes system may benefit in perpetuity from that magnificent body of water. We expect to spend on that project something like \$150 million in a very short period of time. This is for the just society. This justice, in terms of quality of life, has something more behind it than talk.

I mentioned earlier the concern for regional justice and the quality of life in regions of Canada that have been designated for special programs. The government has a very special interest in the development of the economy and social conditions in western Canada. To many people western Canada has been seen as an agricultural base and more recently as an energy base. I do not think that does full justice to the possibilities, the potential and the aspirations of the people of western Canada. In our search for an improved quality of life and justice this government intends in its industrial strategy, which hopefully will soon be announced in greater particular, to open up opportunities for industrial development. The industrialization which has been available to central Canada and

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increasingly is the concern of Atlantic development strategy will be available in western Canada.

One sees some evidence of this already in the establishment of the head office of the Canadian Development Corporation on the west coast. Already one sees the beginning of that new economic justice for western Canada in the interests of the Pacific rim countries, in the concern to develop trade relations with China, the Soviet Union, the Pacific countries and Japan to open up resources to a processing and manufacturing phase of advanced technology. A good deal of the forward trend in a new industrial strategy for this country will be toward developing higher levels of economic activity in the west. It is in a sense a decentralization of industrial activity in the search for the just society in terms of quality of life and national unity.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. O'Connell: Mr. Speaker, there is another point which I should like to mention. It is the contribution being made by the middle-income people of Canada to this thrust into a more just society, into higher orders of justice and into the area of the quality of life.

An hon. Member: They are carrying the load.

Mr. O'Connell: In the early stages, the first elements of a search for a more just society must always be for those who are most disadvantaged, those who have to catch up. One must begin by putting resources in their hands and by seeing that there is justice in their conditions of life. I shall not go into the various measures that have been adopted, other than to mention the tax reform proposals and the tax reform legislation. However, if we want to be honest with ourselves we know that in the last three years this government has assisted more people of low income into more housing units than were available at any time in the past.

Mr. Alexander: After much prompting.

• (1630)

Mr. O'Connell: May I also mention the FISP program. We must also consider family allowances and the income support program which the minister brought before the House for the first time this afternoon. Major efforts are being made in this country to improve the lot of lower income persons. The greater part of the burden created by any redistribution of that type has been carried by the middle-income groups in Canada. We recognize their willingness to accept that burden as well as the extreme strains that have become evident as the challenge is being met. We ought to be aware of the size of the burden being carried by middle-income Canadians who are helping us in this unique period of our history to attain a higher order of social justice.

Let me now turn to another subject. The Canadian labour force, despite being the most rapidly growing labour force in the world is almost the smallest in proportion to total population. We do not remember that too often. Our work force, if measured as a percentage of total population, is smaller than that of any western industrialized country. So rapidly is it growing that there