

*The Address—Right. Hon. Brian Mulroney*

practices outside our 200-mile limit. We will insist on an end to such abuses in all of our international representations. I believe that the Government of Canada, the Parliament of Canada, can make substantial progress on behalf of our fishermen and our farmers across the country.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** Mr. Speaker, competitiveness demands initiative, dedication and determination. In the field of science and technology, we believe in channelling our efforts to achieve international leadership through the creation of centres of excellence and through the development of strategic technologies. Competitiveness means we need a sophisticated human resource strategy for the 1990s to deal with the diminishing importance of traditional industries, the rapid growth of the service sector, of a new and complex technology. The unemployment insurance system can play a better role.

• (1150)

We must recognize expanding sectors and prepare workers for the job skills that are going to be progressively in demand. We must together capitalize opportunities in generating incentives to employment and our programs for the unemployed must be made fully consistent with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We will continue to promote literacy in education so basic to a competitive society. Competitiveness means as well ensuring that the various regions of this country benefit from the prosperity generated by our trading relationships and by our expanding economy. The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency for the Atlantic region, the Western Diversification Office for Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, FEDNOR for northern Ontario and our programs for Quebec will all have their funding continued for the five-year planning period.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Competitiveness means extending our programs to encourage native economic development so that our native populations can participate in Canada's economic opportunities.

The Government's emphasis on the environment is an element, too, of our recognition of Canada's increasing exposure to world-wide forces. The ozone layer above that protects the earth from the sun's ultra-violet rays is diminishing. Twenty-two billion tons of carbon dioxide

from fossil fuels are being pumped into the world's atmosphere each year. This CO<sub>2</sub> is heating up our climate, with hazards we are only beginning to understand. Moreover, forests which process carbon dioxide are disappearing at a breathtaking rate: Twenty-five million tons of sulphur dioxide fall every year in Canada and the United States in the form of acid rain that is destroying our lakes and rivers, damaging our forests and monuments and threatening our health.

It is well past the time that these issues be not only addressed but resolved. Mr. Speaker, environmental protection, like charity, begins at home. The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy has been established to provide leadership to meet the environmental challenges of economic growth.

I have personally modified Cabinet committee processes and tasked the Minister of the Environment with ensuring that environmental considerations are fully taken into account before Government acts or supports any initiative financially.

The Federal Government and the provinces are cutting Canada's own acid rain emissions in half. We will not be satisfied until we see parallel action in the United States and until we have an accord which guarantees that the requisite reductions will be made and provides Canada with the added security of an enforceable international document. We have committed ourselves to end within 10 years or sooner if possible the use of CFCs, which destroy the ozone layer.

Abroad, we will continue to work diligently within the United Nations to make sustainable development a reality.

[*English*]

We will play, Mr. Speaker, our full part as the nations of the world come to grips, or try to, with the infinite complexity of climatic change. We will continue to provide leadership within the international community in the world-wide effort to develop international laws and legal principles to protect the atmosphere, the common heritage of all mankind.

The very distinguished columnist in the *New York Times*, Flora Lewis, recently wrote:

The environment is being considered as a global issue. States proposed at a ground-breaking conference in The Hague this month to submit voluntarily to international policing and to make sure their citizens comply with agreed rules. There are profound shifts, in the perceptions of the world coming unevenly in spasmodic verses but with a momentum reaching the stage of destiny.