

*The Address*

equalize the prosperity in the country. There was a great deal of anger in my part of the country over the very high interest rates, as I know there was in the maritimes. We felt that the outlying parts of the country were being punished by the rapid inflationary processes that were going on in southern Ontario.

As these interest rates have been allowed to decline, and as we have seen the equalization of opportunities to develop new industries across the country, the government is to be applauded for this very positive step. We hope that these interest rates will continue to drop, that we will see more and more opportunity for Canadian business.

As we prosper, as our economy becomes stronger, we will see that gap between the U.S. interest rates and our Canadian rates decline. This has been a great concern to many in business in Canada.

There is another area, also regarding this, that we need to look at very carefully as a government, and that is to reduce the amount of paperwork that we have inflicted upon our Canadian businessmen. Think of all the various government reports that are required. It is all very well to make it financially possible for them to prosper, but I think we also need to look at other areas where we have put unnecessary burdens upon our Canadian businessmen.

As we only have a short while, I will not go into all of the other details. In talking about the prosperity and ensuring that all Canadians participate in that prosperity, I would like to speak briefly about the Canada—U.S.—Mexico free trade arrangement. There was much debate, much controversy about the Canada—U.S. free trade deal. Of course, there is ongoing debate at the present time about a deal with Mexico and how it would affect Canada.

I hope that we will not just be involved in rhetoric in this debate but will see some very sound research done so we as Canadians will know precisely how the free trade agreement with Mexico and the U.S. will affect us as Canadians. I have heard many reports. Just this weekend I had a long discussion in Victoria about how British Columbia will benefit from the free trade arrangement with Mexico.

• (1740)

We need to not just take a public relations person's word for this, but I trust that the government will bring out the facts that will indicate how much better it will be if we have a true North American free trade area. While we were with the European parliamentarians we discussed a great deal of what will happen in 1992.

A tremendous trading bloc will be developed in Europe and it will, of course, be protecting its own self-interests versus North American interests. There will also be discussion of a possibility of an eastern—asiatic free trade arrangement.

These are the areas. While we are talking about economic factors, we need to comment again on the fact that it is essential that all levels of government control their spending tendencies. Just recently, we have seen in the Province of Ontario a situation where a provincial government, flying in the face of all other governments, has raised its deficit at a time when we are trying get these things under control. More and more of our Canadian dollars are being spent to pay off interest on money which we have borrowed from our children. It is grossly unfair.

In my last minute, I would like to talk briefly about the disabled Canadians who are mentioned in the throne speech. In 1986, there were estimated to be 3.3 million Canadians with some form of disability. Some of them are physically disabled. Some have mental disabilities.

We have seen in the last few years how they have become more and more a part of our society. Yet there is so much more that can be done. I would congratulate the government on its initiative of including the disabled in this particular throne speech. We are looking forward to the specific programs which will be announced as the program is outlined.

I would ask that the government look very seriously at those with mental problems. These people have been neglected in the past. We look at people in wheel chairs, the deaf and the blind. Yet people with mental disabilities are the ones who suffer the greatest.

I would implore the government of which I am a member to make sure that we consider the mental disabilities, the schizophrenics, the depressives in our country who need our help.