

*The Address—Mr. Mulroney*

jurisdiction is the only one that does not have those required health and safety provisions for workers. Bring them in. More funds for women's groups.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** What about immediate action to tighten anti-pornography laws? Productivity models are mentioned. That is one very fine idea, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned that in a speech on April 22, 1982. I commend the Government for it, and also for these other things. I tell you right now: bring those matters in; bring them in right through Christmas. We will pass them if you will give us a commitment that once we pass that legislation, you are going to do what you should do and call an election.

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Chair hesitates to interrupt the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) but his remarks should be addressed to the Chair.

**Mr. Mulroney:** I just got carried away, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to you, Sir.

The fact is there are a few good ideas in the speech. Any idea that can create a job is worthy of the attention of this House. I can tell you, Sir, that if this Government cares to introduce legislation to support that principle, do it quickly and do not wait. Forget December 13 and the dinner with Keith Davey and Ed Broadbent—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mulroney:** I am sorry, I mean the dinner with the Leader of the NDP. Bring in the legislation. We are ready to sit through Christmas and into the New Year. As soon as that legislative program is passed, then honour that fundamental British tradition in this country which calls for an election, not in five years but within four years, so that the people can judge the action of this Government. Bring it in and let us have an election.

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

**An Hon. Member:** Oh!

**Mr. Mulroney:** A big game hunter does not allow himself to be diverted by rabbit tracks.

[*Translation*]

Ah, the sheep of Quebec, that hurts, and we will be going in your ridings, one after the other. Quebecers have had enough of you. We are coming, you just wait and see! Bingo!

[*English*]

**Mr. Nielsen:** The monkey from Laurier.

**Mr. Mulroney:** Then there is the question many of the Liberals have asked from time to time about the role of the Opposition in the question of policy development. That is a legitimate question. That is a legitimate concern of people. I

would like to read a brief excerpt from what a very distinguished and thoughtful Canadian said who addressed this problem, because it is important. These are his words:

In this connection I think it is a wrong interpretation of the role of opposition to suggest that it has any obligation, except in very rare and emergency circumstances, to put forward its own legislative proposals . . . government must accept full responsibility for initiating and formulating legislation; apart, of course, from private Members' Bills. It would not only be politically inept but I think would be contrary to the spirit of our constitution for an opposition to advance its own detailed proposals for legislative solutions to the problems before Parliament certainly, until the Government has made known its own proposals.

The Hon. Lester B. Pearson said that on January 27, 1959.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** That was good advice and a reasonable assessment of the constitutional implications. Notwithstanding that, he did say in rare and exceptional circumstances—and this Government needs all the help it can get.

I would like now to discuss briefly some of the problems and some of the reasons for the problems. First, in my judgment, to be as objective as one can in these circumstances, the problem with the Government of Canada as presently constituted is that it has lost the confidence of the people, not only of Canadians, but of the investment and private sector as well. Confidence is very fragile and difficult to define. Once you have lost it you can never recapture it. Once you have betrayed your word or you have let people down in that regard, you have an enormous problem ahead of you.

We are in bad odour with our NATO partners. This country is in bad shape because the small and medium-size businessmen have been almost decimated by erratic changes in taxation policies. We have sent a signal out around the world with the retroactive provisions in the NEP. This is a British parliamentary democracy and we do not deal in odious retroactive legislation. It is a negative and unacceptable signal to send to investment capital around the world. We do not have the capital in this country to create two million new jobs plus 700,000 thereafter. The signals went out. We have had the hectoring for a decade from FIRA. Sure there is a role for FIRA. We do not disagree with some of the objectives of the National Energy Program, but you do not have to break your word and confiscate someone else's property to make that case.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** I tell you we have lost the confidence of the people of Canada, Mr. Speaker. You have lost the confidence of the people.

Another major element to which this Government should address its attention in the most urgent manner in our anaemic productivity. I acknowledge readily that it is not a glamorous matter. It happens to be the most important question facing this country today. The principal challenge of Canada is the sale of quality products at internationally competitive prices. That is what it is about. You cannot do that without enhancing