

The Address

changed to ensure that individuals now have the opportunity for some small pensions and some good pensions.

The big problems we are now facing are technology changes. In mining, the price is not set here in Canada but is an international world price. Mines that had been operating for 35 or 40 years have closed. Some individuals who are 35, 40, 45 or 50 years old, who were great at what they did, when they look to be employed in northern B.C., northern New Brunswick or northern Ontario, with the technology changes and new mines coming into place, their skills are no longer required, because they are manual skills.

I think that is the industrial adjustment this country has to face. Unless you come from those regions, you do not understand the human side.

Pressures are being put on by policies, whether at the federal or provincial level, to bring in new legislation that adapts to what is very popular in regions and urban centres of the country. I can relate to the fact that policies that were brought in by a provincial government in the Province of Ontario effectively closed down a community in my constituency, Temagami, because it was popular for urbanites to have a playground in which to be able to canoe, to walk through trails. Never once did they reflect on the damage they were doing to individuals in my area who had made their livelihood from forest products, whether it was in the bush operations or sawmill operations. As I speak, after two years, some of those people still do not have work. Their unemployment insurance has run out, some have lost their homes, some have gone on welfare, some have left the area and, unfortunately, some have a very difficult time being able to fill out an application form for a new job.

That is why it is so important for us to be able to make those adjustments. Whether it is in the fishing community or any of the resorts or smaller regions of this country, we have to give these individuals the opportunity to get the basic educational skills required—reading, writing and arithmetic. As a government—I know in my constituency we are certainly trying—we have to ensure, through the educational system, that we can bring the educational skills of individuals up to a level where they will then be able to challenge in a world that is changing. The unfortunate part of it is that a lot of Canadians will

still not accept that it is changing times, times in which governments at all levels have to start dealing with what I believe is the future of this country. I believe the time for partisanship is over. The fact is that we have to be looking at the challenges ahead and be able to deal with them in a manner which Canadians can understand rather than the fact that it is popular to say one thing to get elected, but not deal with the fact that it is individual lives, whether it is in the four basic resources or whether it is in individuals who may be involved and a spin-off from that.

It is difficult for me to understand that individuals from other regions of the country will not allow us to continue on the basis of what this country was built on. I hope more Canadians from the urban centres will start to understand that the wealth of Canada is not in Toronto, Calgary or Vancouver, the wealth of the country and what the country was built on is in the regions of this country. We have to ensure that the regions of this country get the opportunity to be able to move forward with the new technology to ensure and enhance the opportunity for those regions to benefit.

I could go on for a good period of time because it is something I believe in strongly. Before the regions of this country are going to be able to ensure stability, urban Canadians are going to have to understand and give us the opportunity to do so.

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, it is now fully two weeks since we had the Speech from the Throne and I have been looking forward to making a few comments about it.

First of all, let me deal with one of the matters raised by my friend from Timiskaming and, before him, his colleague and my friend from Portage—Interlake. I hear them say something that many on their side have said in this debate and it comes through sometimes in responses by ministers during Question Period these last few days, and that is that somehow there is a new credo, the word goes out that there is to be no more partisanship, it is all, from here on, going to be sweetness and light, kind of one party system if you like. That makes for great speechifying, but it does not make for much sense because that is not our system.