

The Address

throughout that debate that by locking ourselves into an accord with the United States, we were, in fact, making it more difficult for us to deal with trade opportunities in other parts of the world.

For ourselves, we certainly see the goal of economic policy as, of course, trying to create as prosperous a country as possible, while trying to see to it that environmental goals are met within that framework. In that context we are also trying to expand our trade with not just the United States but the Asian Pacific countries which are growing so fast. The European countries, in particular eastern Europe, is changing dramatically and offers a great many trade opportunities to countries that are prepared to get in there.

I think that where this government made its mistake was to set up a special set of trade rules with the United States which gave every incentive to companies to locate in the United States and export into Canada, instead of locating here and exporting into the United States. In our particular community, for instance, we have seen in the past year 40 factories which have shut up shop and shifted to the United States or to Mexico.

That, Mr. Speaker, is not what prosperity for this country is about. Prosperity is about those plants staying here, exporting to the United States but also exporting to other parts of the world.

I want to suggest too that the member's part of Canada from which I have just returned is going to feel much of this damage now that the doors have been opened to wheat exports from the United States into Canada.

Many farmers who I have talked to in western Canada said that this was going to be just as serious a disaster for the west as the free trade in manufactured goods has been for Ontario.

Mr. Jim Karygiannis (Scarborough—Agincourt): Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to look at the throne speech very carefully. There are some excerpts in it that I would like to read:

—that the Government of Canada represents all Canadians; and that change can be achieved only through reasonable compromise and enlightened accommodation of the interest of all Canadians;

As we are talking right now, 37 per cent of our Canadian population is made up of Canadians who, if we want to call them ethno-Canadians, are people who have

come to this country since 1947. Statistics Canada states that by the year 2000, 58 per cent of the Canadian population will be other than an anglophone or a francophone.

If we were to look at what constitutes a francophone or an anglophone, an anglophone could be somebody from the British Isles, an Irishman or a Scotsman. Nowhere in this throne speech do we see precisely and clearly something addressing the needs of the people of this country who have come here in the last 50 years.

Nowhere in the speech are we inviting people who have come to this country in the past 50 years to sit at the negotiating table to look at Canada's future.

My question, through you, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. member is: Does he not agree with me that if we do not invite the ethno-Canadians to sit at the negotiating table to talk about Canadian unity, we could run in the year 2010 with small interest groups all over different parts of our country saying that they were not invited. Therefore, we would like to sit down and negotiate out future in Canada now. We could be in the midst of renegotiating the Constitution 20 years from now. Why are we not looking 20 years into the future and inviting those groups now?

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, I think that it is a very important question which has been put.

Next week the Canadian Ethno-Cultural Council is meeting with all parties. I am never quite sure which category I fall into. I suppose as somebody from the Celtic fringes of Ireland, it makes me either British or anti-British, I am never quite sure.

It certainly makes it important for us as parliamentarians to recognize that our country is changing. In my view, it is changing very much in a positive way in bringing together within our country a wider and wider variety of people.

In my constituency, there is a very large Chinese population. There is a large Sikh population. There is a large Hindu population. We have many different European countries represented. We are seeing an increasing number of people from the Middle East; from Lebanon, from Iran and from other countries in my constituency. I think this is something which is a tremendous boost to us as a community and to us as a country.