

transportation problems, housing, unemployment, interest rates and inter-governmental relations, as well as several other such matters, should be dealt with by the government. Red tape itself is inflated. It causes inflation as well as financial and mental stress. The Income Tax Act is a deterrent to growth and expansion.

I was surprised and disturbed at the fact that no mention was made in the throne speech of the plight of the Indian population in our country. A group of Indians came to Ottawa on Monday, September 30, for a pow-wow. They wanted to talk. The proper authorities should at least have listened to their difficulties so that action could be taken to help resolve them.

In closing I would like to say that it should be made known to all hon. members that as an independent member I will support what I think is good legislation and certainly oppose poor legislation.

Mr. Reynolds: We all say that.

Mr. Jones: But I will attempt to be constructive. Like many of you, I will become impatient with government inaction, particularly in times of crises. It is not only the confusion, the conflicts and the verbosity in the throne speech that bother me but the fact that it does not deal at all with so many serious and chaotic situations in which this country and its citizens find themselves.

It is my sincere hope that in this session we will see all members in all parties work conscientiously and earnestly in the best interests and for the welfare of all Canadians.

Mr. Raymond Dupont (Sainte-Marie): First of all, Mr. Speaker, I should like to join with the previous speakers who have asked you to convey to His Excellency our best wishes for a quick recovery. I should also like to join the other members in congratulating you on your appointment as Speaker of this House and to wish you well in your difficult task.

Moreover, I should like to congratulate the movers of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. Their important contribution to this debate reflects the continuous concern of the Liberal party to renew itself by allowing young Canadians to take an active part in the government of our country. I believe it is essential for the government party to represent, as much as circumstances allow, all the groups which make up our Canadian society. I am especially happy to note that young members were elected in the government party.

I am happy to take part in this debate, mainly because of the importance of the subjects mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. It deals with matters which particularly affect the constituents of Sainte-Marie whom I have the privilege of representing in this House. The problems of a constituency represent a great challenge for a member of Parliament. There is much that needs to be done in Sainte-Marie and I begin this session with determination knowing that government measures listed in the Speech from the Throne will benefit the citizens who have shown confidence in me.

During the last election, Canadians had to decide what type of leader is needed in Canada and what the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) can do to solve the prob-

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lems facing Canada. This matter has now been settled. The Prime Minister and his team, to which I am proud to belong, have received a very clear mandate from the Canadian people. In the second phase, the government now makes its intentions known to the House. And I am convinced that Canadians will agree that the contents of the Speech from the Throne is in line with the confidence expressed by them on July 8 last.

The Speech from the Throne contains no magic formula that would have only fooled Canadians on the nature of current problems and solutions to be considered. I think indeed that its contents reflect the climate of confidence that exists between the government and the people. For that climate to continue to exist it is important that the government party spell everything outright and introduce legislation to deal with those problems, rather than concentrating its efforts on increasing its popularity. I feel at ease in a team which can be so concerned about the fairness and the effectiveness of its program.

Mr. Speaker, we have before us a serious program indeed. The Speech from the Throne recognizes the difficulties upsetting our economy. Those difficulties were expressed by all political parties during the last election campaign. Furthermore, the many contacts I had with residents in my riding proved to me how urgent the problem is. In the riding of Sainte-Marie the economy is not a philosophical issue but a matter of survival. When I try to explain the economic situation to my fellow citizens, as I see it, I always refer to the trade position of our country. We are affected by the backlash of price increases on international markets to the extent that inflation remains a world experience, and particularly to the extent that we have very active external trade. However, note should be made of the foresight of the present Minister of Industry and Commerce (Mr. Gillespie) and his predecessor in his efforts to diversify our sources of supply and the export markets for our Canadian products. Those efforts make Canada much more independent from certain countries, particularly our southern neighbours, as regard the higher price of our imports and the fair pricing of our exports. This factor has too often been overlooked and I am pleased to take this opportunity to point it out.

I am also pleased to learn that the Canadian government is firmly committed through international conferences to work together with various countries to lessen the detrimental effects of inflation.

Canadian policies generally in that respect have surely been quite successful since our economic performance is one of the best in the western world.

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However, the matter of concern to me is much more concrete and affects my fellow-citizens much more directly. I leave to the economists the task of enlarging on the causes and nature of the phenomenon of price increases. I am, however, seriously concerned about the social effect of that economic phenomenon.

Indeed, inflation might have no social implications if it would hit everybody equally. The purchasing power of each citizen would not be altered, but on the contrary, inflation is discriminatory. It does not concern all citizens to the same extent. This fact alone jeopardizes the very