

The Address—Mr. Gauthier

that the present government can tell me clearly, because it cannot renege its commitments.

[English]

Does the hon. member opposite want the floor?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. If hon. members have anything to say in this House, they must address the Chair.

[Translation]

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue in the same vein but I think I have made the point I wanted to make, namely that we cannot skip stages. The referendum process skips the stage of honest and real negotiation. The present statu quo skips the stage of negotiation. I seriously think that when a partner skips stages and the other is hesitant, somebody must intervene, somebody must provide real leadership at the Canadian level. The gap is deepening, perhaps it is becoming impassable, I do not know but I certainly hope not. Points of contact are overloaded, fuses may blow. I leave the economic arguments to others. Others will also tell you that Canada has succeeded despite its weaknesses and its mistakes. The only thing I want to do is to invite you, my Quebec cousins, to think seriously before deciding, and to remember those in the forefront, the foot soldiers, your cousins in the rest of Canada. We know that Canada must be greater, that it must be better for all of us, for our children.

Mr. Speaker, I would not want to return to my seat without speaking of another issue. I do not know how much time I have left, but I would like to speak on a subject of great interest to me and which concerns federal civil servants. It is a topic with which my colleague from Nepean-Carleton is familiar, that is the need to implement a development and promotion policy.

[English]

I refer to the latest in a series of documents, the more recent one being the Auditor General's report. I see the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston) is here, and maybe I should address myself to that question very briefly. I believe that it has been possibly a mistake on the part of politicians to single out public servants as being either inefficient or ineffective. The general consensus, from what I have gathered after looking at the subject for about seven or eight years, is that indeed we have some difficulties in the administration of this country. But these are mostly because of a lack of a philosophy of management. In this instance I refer hon. members to the D'Avignon report which makes a good case for that.

There is the lack of a global approach in training and development of our personnel as senior managers, and a need for a policy of management so that these managers know exactly what this House of Commons wants and expects of them. Instead of bashing the heads of the majority of public servants, maybe we should look at creating, discussing, and putting in place a policy of training and development for public servants, addressed to better efficiency and to more

effective programs. I would like to discuss this matter at length, but I will keep my remarks for another time. I thank hon. members for their attention.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—Veterans Affairs—Prorata pensions for widows of veterans on disability pension; the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell)—Energy—Export of natural gas to United States.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mrs. Côté for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to participate in this throne speech debate, and I am deeply grateful to the electors of Edmonton-Strathcona for the opportunity to do so. Permit me to thank each one of those voters again for electing me for the second time.

[Translation]

If I may, I would also like to congratulate Madam Speaker in assuming her new responsibilities in the House. Her qualities, her courage and her common sense in matters related to parliamentary democracy are well known and quite appreciated everywhere in the House.

[English]

In my view the throne speech shows why this government clearly needs a whole new set of clichés as Canada enters the 1980s. To illustrate, let me give two representative examples. My first quote reads: "Canadians expect much of this Parliament". This is self-evident sophistry. Approximately seven out of ten Canadians in fully 62 per cent of the land mass of Canada did not elect a single Liberal member of Parliament. Indeed, in parts of Canada there is probably no greater political insult than to call someone a Trudeau Liberal.