

*The Address*

deputy government whip will be deemed adopted, since it just was. Resuming debate, the hon. member for Delta.

**Mr. Rocheleau:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The hon. member for Hull—Aylmer on a point of order.

**Mr. Rocheleau:** Mr. Speaker, you said that the motion was adopted, but it was adopted on division, if I understand correctly.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** I thank the hon. member for Hull—Aylmer for asking me to be more precise. Yes, the motion was adopted on division.

I again recognize the hon. member for Delta.

[*English*]

**Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta):** Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour and a privilege to be one of the final speakers in this very significant debate. Of all the throne speeches I have read and listened to, this is one of the most significant. Coming at this time in Canadian history, it is all the more significant. One of the prime features of this whole debate and of the throne speech was the subject of Canadian unity.

The speaker immediately before me quoted the paragraph which I would like to quote, as many others have, which says:

Whatever our background and wherever we live, Canadians share the same basic hopes and aspirations. We are proud of the great country we have inherited. Above all, we are determined to leave it a better and stronger place for our children.

As I thought about our country and about what we would talk about today, I thought that it indeed is a miracle that we are a united country. We see the tremendous size of our country, the geographical differences, the cultural differences, the many different races, the different areas of the globe that we come from, and the tremendous economic disparities that our country has. Some areas are very wealthy and very rich in resources, other areas are very poor with very few resources. Yet we have been able to stick together. However, at this time we are faced with very significant and great threats to our unity.

I have noticed, particularly in the last two months, that when I talk to people on the street, or people phone me up and talk on the telephone, or wherever it may be, I hear more and more that we as Canadians need each

other. We cannot allow one section of our country to leave. We need the maritimes. We need Quebec. We need central Canada, Ontario. We need our prairie provinces, and we need British Columbia.

We need to know, as well, the actual cost if this country should break up as has been threatened.

I have never seen any specific costs. We have had our economists say there will be great economic disruption, but I think the greater tragedy would be the loss of our social structures. We would see tremendous psychological damage. We would lose our status in the world community. We have just finished a meeting with the European parliamentarians in Victoria, and they were constantly coming and talking to us about what would happen if Canada should break up.

We have been a world example of a nation that has got along together in spite of differences throughout the country. They have, in many instances, looked at Canada and seen how we, despite our diversity, have been able to unite and work together to create a country that has, compared to its population, a tremendous influence on world affairs.

Another aspect of this throne speech that I would like to just comment on very briefly is the fact that we want Canadians everywhere to participate in prosperity. One of the sources of discontent within Canada is the tremendous discrepancy between the have areas and the have not areas. I come from British Columbia where we have great natural resources. We have a great future.

Then we look at the other side of the country, say Newfoundland, where their raw materials are limited, and yet we, as British Columbians, are anxious that the people of Newfoundland will prosper and enjoy the good things that we enjoy in British Columbia.

Through our history we have seen that various regions of the country have suffered while other areas have prospered. I think that, as it says in the Speech from the Throne:

There is much more to Canadian unity than amending the Constitution. Our unity is strengthened by a strong economy. And prosperity is enhanced by a united country. But disunity in the face of the global economic challenge invites decline.

We need to very seriously consider that as we consider the next couple of years in our country's history. This government has done some very significant things to