

The Address—Mr. St. Germain

bring about change. They want to end the instability. They want to stop the corruption. They want to repair the damage and restore the confidence in our system of government.

That is why I am in this House. On August 29 the people of Mission-Port Moody demonstrated their desire for change. In fact, the momentum for change right across Canada started in Mission-Port Moody on August 29. Canadians are no longer willing to sacrifice opportunity. They realize the potential that is ours and they are going to rid our nation of the Government that has prevented us from realizing that potential.

The potential of Mission-Port Moody lies in the resource industries that have traditionally created the prosperity in Canada—forestry, fishing and farming. These are also industries which have been hardest hit over the last three years. The Government opposite has simply ignored these vital sectors. Instead of making important decisions to preserve our fish stocks, to replant our forests and to allow our farmers to continue farming, the Government has allowed neglect to drive these resource industries into difficulty. The Throne Speech perpetuates the Government's attitude of neglect toward the important resource-based industries. This speech, which is supposedly the Government's blueprint for the future, merely pays lip-service to the resource industries that built our country, generated our wealth and created our high standard of living.

About the dying Pacific fishery, this Government says that the problems of this industry require attention; nothing more specific. There is nothing to offer any hope to the fishermen of my riding, who met at a conference last month to plan a way to survive. Meanwhile, the Pearse Commission report, be it good or bad, gathers dust on a shelf as the Government refuses to make any decisions on Dr. Pearse's recommendations. Their only decision is the decision to continue ignoring the plight of West Coast fishermen.

The same is true of the forest industry, which is so vital to the riding of Mission-Port Moody and to all Canadians. Forestry is by far the most significant employer in my area. There are 45 sawmills. The lumber mills, shingle and shake mills, seedling nurseries and other private sector service industries create the jobs and generate the wealth in my riding, and they are spread right across the country.

Surely the Government knows that our forests must be farmed, and not mined. Forestry is our most important renewable resource, yet we have not been renewing our forests for future generations. Unplanted areas are swiftly overtaking our forests. New forests are not being planted because the Government opposite cannot reach agreement with the provinces to spend federal dollars on what is clearly a national as well as a provincial resource. If Canada's greatest farm, our natural forests, are not managed and harvested properly and replanted immediately, we will see our forest industry die.

There was mention in the Throne Speech of a conservation corps that will be involved in forestry renewal, but what about the \$130 million promised to the provinces last year by the Minister responsible for the Canadian forestry service? Where has that money gone? Has it gone into a slush fund? It has

disappeared. Only 4 per cent of forest revenues are required to do a proper job of forest renewal. Replanting the backlogged areas would create 100,000 jobs. This would enable the forest industry to prosper in future years and to continue providing the kind of wealth that allows Canada to maintain a high standard of living.

At the same time this Government should be making a real commitment to research and development in the wood products field. If we are to realize the full potential of our forests, we must find less expensive ways to produce more from a single log. There are signs that Canada's plywood industry is becoming an antiquated industry. The cost of producing veneer plywood is too high. The waste involved in milling a log is also an area of concern. This is a reality. The plywood industry will be gone, and we have no replacement for it. New technology can provide us with the ingenuity to utilize traditional wood wastes and produce chipboards, resin-based hardboards and other wood products that can replace plywood and other costly traditional products. If we do not adapt new technologies to our resource industries and if we do not apply new methods of production to the processing and upgrading of these resources, we will see these industries die a slow death. If our forest industry dies, the resulting number of unemployed will be in the hundreds of thousands. The effects will be felt from one coast to another. This is the reality the Government opposite refuses to recognize.

We must ask why this Government has ignored the resource-based industries of western Canada. Why has it attacked the oil and gas industry? Why has it neglected the forest industry? Why has it mismanaged the West Coast fisheries industry? The answer, Mr. Speaker, lies in the Government's attitude toward Canada. Canada is one nation where success is promoted through our freedom to realize our individual hopes and dreams. Unity is not something a government can impose; it is something we all must work to achieve. That is what Canada is all about. Canadians, in whatever part of the country they live, want to be treated fairly. They want to have the same opportunities and the same chances. They are united behind the common goal that our pioneering forefathers dreamed of—the goal of survival in a harsh land and success from hard work.

● (1650)

We united out of necessity. A confederation exists because each region of this nation has something to offer. Each region offers opportunities. Each region offers resources. That is Canada—a confederation of regions, not a coalition of special interest groups.

The Government looks at Canada as a nation of different special groups. Each region or special interest group is treated differently by the Government, according entirely to political expediency. Interests are manipulated. Some regions are catered to, others are ignored, all in the name of success at the polls. Nationally unity is an abstract concept that the Government attempts to impose when all else fails.