The Address-Mr. Mulroney

Canadians actually know what goes on at Liberal fund-raising dinners. This is the place where the Prime Minister should speak to Canada. This is the place, here.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: Tradition after tradition has been violated by the Government. One of the most fundamental British traditions is that reports of this matter are always made to the House of Commons. This principle must be maintained intact and I invite the Prime Minister to do so and to do so promptly.

I leave the area of international affairs with but one comment. I have been deeply troubled by statements made by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) while both of them have been in the Middle East. There is an ambivalence developing in respect of our attitude there. This country must be fair and it must be equitable in its assessment of the requirements of all people in the region, but we seem to be moving to a position that is very dangerous. The position of this Party, Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, and of the Government of Canada must be an unshakable commitment to the integrity of Israel at all times. There is a firm commitment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: I took forward to hearing from the Prime Minister in that regard.

Having looked at the last Throne Speech and not knowing what to expect in this one, I then read what the Prime Minister told the Liberal Party in November of 1982. "I tell you tonight", he said, "that the next Speech from the Throne will represent all that is innovative, all that is bold and all that is dynamic with the Liberal Party". Cecil B. De Mille could not have said it any better. We have seen the Throne Speech. I think, perhaps, had my appetite not been so whetted by the extravagant prose and promises, all of us Canadians would probably take a somewhat less demanding view of the document. But since the promise was made that this was going to be the greatest thing since bottled beer, we took a look at it.

The speech contains proposals for no less than nine separate studies, task forces and commissions. There are some jobs for the boys! Basically, the speech consists of three things: recycled promises, inadequate responses and some stolen ideas. The promises include the Competition Act which is as old as the hills, as well as revisions to the discriminatory sections of the Indian Act. We have been asking for that for years and years and here it is again. Another proposal is the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

There was no reference made at all to one of the greatest problems facing this society. I refer to the fact that this society, along with others, has inadvertently contrived to deny women economic equality in this country. There is absolutely no reference to the fact that the microchip has the potential to change all of that. Its greatest benefit is that it is completely neutral. The microchip has no bias in regard to sex, creed or race. Therefore, it opens up a brand-new opportunity for

millions of women, almost a million of whom will be put out of jobs unless the Government comes up with something serious in the area of manpower retraining to prepare for this revolution.

For the first time, thanks to the chip, women as a group will have the opportunity to break out of the low paying work ghettos, and there must be a commitment not only by the Government of Canada but by the Parliament of Canada to ensure that millions of Canadian women can attain the kind of economic equality that we wish for them. That is what it is all about.

While there was nothing in the speech in regard to that, it was not all bad. I commend the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Lumley) and perhaps some of his colleagues. Here are some statements that I think are very helpful; "Encourage private trading houses"; "duty free export zones will be established for the manufacturing and processing of bond goods for export"; "winning of additional markets by Canadian companies"; "expand business and improve relations with our largest trading partner".

• (1230)

That is good stuff. That is so good, let me quote from a speech I made in Ottawa six months ago today: "Encourage the setting up of trading corporations; setting up export trade zones which would be tariff and tax free; implement various export marketing incentives; actively promote export of Canadian services: engineering, management consultancy and software; and rebuild Canada's competitive position in international trade markets in order to recapture our lost share of Canada's historical share of world trade".

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: At least I do not ask for much and I do not expect much from this Government, but maybe a little footnote in a speech!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: Not in big type, just a little asterisk down at the bottom saying "Most of the good ideas here came from the other side of the House".

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pepin: You are not very demanding of yourself.

Mr. Mulroney: Then there are some ideas that are left over. It does not diminish their value that it has taken so long for them to be passed. These include increases in the guaranteed income supplement; an additional \$312 million to create employment for youth; tough new laws increasing penalties for drunk drivers, violent criminals and drug dealers; increased transfer payments from Ottawa; a streamlined justice system; more funds for women's groups and research on women's issues and health and safety provisions. What is the delay? I put the same provisions into every collective agreement with which we operated in 15 jurisdictions in 1977. The federal