

zens". One of the most ennobling duties of government is to ensure that the elderly are accorded the dignity and security they so richly deserve.

As one of the youngest Members of this House, I am a product of the 1960s and 1970s, an era which saw incredible upheaval and change: Vietnam, the "hippie movement", student demonstrations, Watergate, and political assassinations. It was also an era which witnessed a strong undercurrent of idealism. The Kennedys and Martin Luther King challenged humanity with a vision of decency and brotherhood which we have yet to realize. Their dreams must never die and our efforts for a better world must never cease. As John Kennedy said, "We are not here to curse the darkness but to light the candle that can guide us through the darkness to a safe and sane future".

Kennedy once described himself as an idealist without illusions. As part of a new generation of Liberals, I share these sentiments. Liberals understand the power of idealism and that government can and must be used as an instrument for moral progress. Government must be fair and compassionate. It must be quick to respond to the needy in society. It must be the protectorate of our democratic institutions and the advocate of individual rights and freedoms. Caring for the disadvantaged in our society, the sick, the disabled, the poor, the unemployed, the elderly, increasing opportunities for women and our young people and sharing with the less fortunate in our society is the Liberal legacy. This is the tradition of Canadian liberalism, a tradition fostered by Laurier and continued by King, St. Laurent, Pearson, Trudeau and now Turner. It has been this leadership, during this century, that has guided Canada to its place as one of the most humane and decent societies anywhere in the world.

● (1250)

But, Mr. Speaker, Liberals are also realists. We are pragmatists. We are without illusions as to what can and cannot be done by government. We understand that it is the individual who, through initiatives and sacrifice, is the source of our economic strength and the engine of growth. We, as Liberals, fight to correct abuses and injustices within our society. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We in the Liberal Party, now Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, intend to live by this philosophy over the course of the Thirty-third Parliament because we are the Party of reform.

The Speech from the Throne that began this Parliament is certainly a most important document. As Hon. Members opposite know only too well, a Conservative Government in this country is a rare bird indeed and one that seldom, if ever, learns to fly. Conservative Throne speeches, as a result, are such rare documents that Canadians had a right to expect much more from this one. Traditionally the Speech from the Throne affords a Government the opportunity to translate its election promises into a blueprint for legislative action.

If the recent Throne Speech is any indication, however, that tradition has suffered a serious setback. The Throne Speech repeated some of the Conservative election promises. It also

The Address—Mr. Nunziata

spoke of re-introducing many important Liberal initiatives from the last Parliament. However, it did not reveal any substantive description of how the Government intends to follow through on its campaign commitments.

I concede the fact that Throne Speeches are, by their very nature, general. But this document is so vague and contains so few specifics, that it truly lacks any substance or depth. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, it gives Canadians a very poor reference point from which to judge Tory promises against Tory action. Tory action to date is diametrically opposed to Tory election promises. The Tories made many promises during the election campaign, a number of which were irresponsible, in my view.

There were to be tens of thousands of jobs just as soon as a new government was sworn in. Where are they? We are still waiting. There was to be an open and accessible government. Where is it? It is nowhere to be found. They promised hope to our young people. Instead, they exacerbated the despair and snuffed any light of hope that existed. The list of broken promises goes on and on.

It will soon become abundantly clear as the honeymoon fades that the Tories have hoodwinked the Canadian electorate. Canadians have been seriously jilted by the Conservative Party, and I would submit, Mr. Speaker, with fraudulent intent. In their thirst for power the Tories were either innocently naive or deliberately dishonest with Canadians. Is it any wonder, Mr. Speaker, that the integrity of politicians is so often called into question?

The Throne Speech is virtually silent on how the Government actually intends to pursue solutions to Canada's problems. We are promised consultations, studies, task forces, talk and more talk, when what we need is action.

It is obvious from the Throne Speech that the Tories really do not know what they are doing. They really do not know what to do about our greatest problem, namely unemployment. Astonishingly, one of their first acts as a government was an economic statement that will have the effect of increasing, not decreasing, the unemployment roles. The Government must address the tragedy of unemployment and must do so quickly. The unemployed cannot wait for the off chance that the private sector will create much-needed jobs.

The Conservatives have put their blind faith in the free enterprise system and in the private sector creating jobs. Let us not forget that business is in business to create profit, not jobs. A corporation has no moral conscience to create jobs. It has no obligation to our unemployed. But government must and does have an obligation toward those who want to work but cannot.

Government is in business for people. We are not running a railroad. Government is not judged by its balance sheet, but rather by the way it treats its people, by the way it cares, and by its sense of justice. The Tory paranoia and pre-occupation with the deficit will only serve to create more serious hardships for those who have already suffered and for those who are less able to care for themselves. I agree, Mr. Speaker, that the Government must be fiscally responsible, but let it not be