

*The Address—Miss D. Grey*

One of the issues in this proposed national sales tax program is that we have a patchwork across the nation of different goods; some are taxed and some are not. It will be a lower rate, more broadly applied. In Alberta there is an awful lot of capital investment in the oil industry, in manufacturing and in other industries, that are taxed at a high rate. The rate will be lower. There will be greater economic growth.

No, I am not opposed to the imposition of a business transfer tax, or a value added tax, or a new equitable and fairer sales tax.

**Miss Deborah Gray (Beaver River):** Mr. Speaker, as a new Member speaking for the first time in the House of Commons, I wish to congratulate and thank those who make this institution what it is.

I wish to congratulate the Speaker on his re-election as Speaker of the House, and sincerely thank him and the House staff for all the help and assistance they provide to new Members.

I wish to congratulate the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and each Member of the Government on their re-election and, as a western Canadian, thank them for their willingness to pursue the free trade initiative.

I also wish to congratulate the leaders and Members of the Official Opposition and the New Democratic Party on their re-election.

In particular, I want to thank the Hon. Member for Gloucester (Mr. Young), and the Hon. Member for Edmonton East (Mr. Harvey), for introducing me to the House on Monday, April 3.

I would also like to extend my condolences to the family and friends of Beaver River's original Member-elect, Mr. John Dahmer, whose untimely death necessitated the by-election in our riding.

I am especially pleased to note that the word "reform" is creeping into the Government's vocabulary, and appears at least four times in the Speech from the Throne in reference to tax reform, reform of Canada's legal system, parliamentary reform, and reform of the electoral process.

The word "reform" means constructive change and represents a long and honourable tradition in Canadian politics from coast to coast.

It was the reform parties and reformers of Upper and Lower Canada and Atlantic Canada who secured representative and responsible Government for the Canadian colonies, and thus laid the foundation for Confederation.

In the West there have been five major reform movements since 1870: Riel and the Métis, Haultain and the Independents, the Progressive Party, and the Depression Parties of Social Credit and the CCF. Each of these played a distinctive role in advancing western economic, social, and constitutional interests within Confederation.

As the first elected Member of the new Reform Party of Canada, I hope to build upon this great tradition and bring a fresh and positive perspective to the deliberations of the House and the analysis of the Government's Speech from the Throne.

Most importantly, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the people of Beaver River for their willingness to be political pioneers.

Beaver River is a new federal riding in Alberta stretching from just east of Edmonton all the way to the Saskatchewan border. It encompasses an area of approximately 28,000 square kilometres inhabited by approximately 72,000 people.

Its three most basic industries are agriculture, energy and forestry. Our towns and businesses provide goods and services to these industries and the people employed by them. We also service a growing tourist trade attracted by our numerous and beautiful northern lakes.

Communities of Beaver River include Namao and Cold Lake, each the site of a major armed services base. Beaver River includes farming communities of Gibbons, Smoky Lake, Warspite, Thorhild and Waskatenau, many of them established and settled by pioneers of Ukrainian origin.

Beaver River includes the town and oil fields of Redwater, the site of a major oil strike in Alberta after Leduc. It includes the towns of Grand Centre, Bonnyville, and Elk Point in the heart of Alberta's heavy oil country.

Beaver River is the home of seven major Indian reserves and four Métis colonies. It includes the towns of Lac la Biche, soon to be the site of a new pulp mill, and St. Paul, one of the oldest francophone communities in Alberta.