

*The Address—Mrs. Collins*

● (1110)

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[Translation]

**SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MRS. MARY COLLINS AND  
SECONDED BY MR. ALBERT GIRARD

The House proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by Her Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

**Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, I have the great honour to move the motion on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. First I should like to pay my deepest respects to Her Excellency the Governor General, the Right Hon. Jeanne Sauvé, and to congratulate you for having been elected Speaker of the House of Commons. All our fellow Canadians in British Columbia are particularly honoured by the fact that you were chosen by your peers to assume this heavy responsibility. We are very proud indeed that you should be the first representative of our province to hold this prestigious position.

Over the coming months it will be your duty to ensure respect for the rules and traditions of this House. You will also be expected to make sure that Hon. Members so conduct the nation's business as to make Canadians proud of this institution. I know that all Members of my Party intend to give you their full support in the discharge of your duties, and I should hope that all Members of the House share this commitment.

[English]

Before I comment on the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, I should like to acknowledge my British Columbia roots. As a Canadian and as a native of British Columbia, this summer has filled me with a sense of pride and accomplishment, unequalled since 1967. This summer we threw a party called "Expo 86". The whole world came and is still coming in record numbers. We have showcased more than transportation and communications at Expo; we have showcased Canada, and the world loves it. In record numbers people of the world have concluded what we have known all along—this country is the best in the world.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Collins:** Our people, our resources, our spirit, and our achievements are second to none. I am sure that all Hon. Members of the House join with me in saying to all involved in the Expo 86 success: "good job, well done, *merci bien*".

Today I am especially pleased and wish to acknowledge the honour extended to the residents of Capilano and of British Columbia by the invitation of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to me to move the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. The last time a British Columbia Member was so honoured was in 1896—90 years ago. At that time the Hon. Member for Nanaimo, Mr. McInnes, complained that

while British Columbia contributed \$2 million annually to the Dominion Treasury, on average the largest amount the province had ever received back to cover all public expenditures was \$1.2 million. He said he hoped that the selection of a Member from British Columbia to open the Throne Speech debate was evidence that "at last we have a Government in power in this country that recognizes the importance of, and is prepared to pursue a policy of, generous treatment toward that great far West".

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Translation]

**Mrs. Collins:** The more things change, the more they remain the same.

[English]

These comments parallel the message of the Speech from the Throne and my comments today in that we want to see all regions, all corners of the country, and all Canadians share in this nation's prosperity.

Canada will only be as strong as its most far-reaching parts. One of the greatest challenges of our Government is to ensure that it has in place policies and programs which will be fair and provide opportunities to all Canadians, whether they live in downtown Toronto or in far distant Tuktoyaktuk, whether their home is in Come-by-Chance, Newfoundland or in Uluetlet from Vancouver Island.

Almost two years ago, on November 5, 1984, the Government of Canada set forth in a Speech from the Throne a new agenda for our country. It was an agenda which called, very simply, for a new beginning. Just two months prior, Canadians, through the expression of their democratic rights, had overwhelmingly endorsed such an agenda. Canadians wanted a fresh start. They were tired of confrontation. They were scarred by recession. They were hurt by unemployment, high interest rates, and inflation. They knew fundamentally that there was nothing wrong with them or their country. What was needed was new management, different ideas and approaches, new solutions, and a new beginning.

In that speech the Government committed itself to a new beginning in four broad areas of our national life—economic renewal, national reconciliation, constructive internationalism, and social justice. In the two years since, progress has been made in all four areas, although much remains to be done. Yesterday Canadians heard that their Government is committed to finishing the job it started, to making good its pledge of a new beginning.

Today I want to talk about the fundamentals of our agenda, fundamentals which are essential to our vision of Canada as a modern, tolerant, caring nation whose citizens are secure and prosperous. Let me start with economic renewal. On November 5, 1984, we made it our No. 1 priority. Our objective that all Canadians can lead prosperous productive lives requires that they have the opportunity for employment. Over half a million people are working today who were not working two