

*The Address*

There are all kinds of traps and all kinds of dangers and I hope that the spirit will prevail. Thank you.

**Mr. Holtmann:** Mr. Speaker, I thank my opposition colleague from Winnipeg for those remarks. Already, I believe, the few words that I introduced into this House are working. If we could just multiply that force, this House will not be such an adversarial place against people's characters and individuals. We may not agree with others' policies, we may not agree whether it was the right decision to spend or not to spend, I will accept that and we will debate that in the House. That is the kind of debate that is healthy, and at the end of the day, well, we will vote on it. However, we must get away from these very personal attacks on an individual's character.

Politicians come here with a little bit of a thick skin generally and are prepared to accept the odd shot. My goodness, I chaired the committee on communications and culture for two years as "that pig farmer". No problem. We had a lot of fun with it and I am sure most others did. My good colleague sitting behind me here recalls some of those times.

My point is that it is all too often taken negatively by the public and can then grow into something that really was not there. We all know that perception is something that we have to live with, but the reality is that it does change from time to time. I am grateful for his comments and look forward to a very aggressive but fair and interesting session of this House this coming spring and summer.

**Mr. John A. MacDougall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak today on the throne speech, as we get closer to the end of the debate and having had the opportunity over the last week or so to listen to colleagues on all sides speak regarding the throne speech.

I would like to take a few minutes to present my views and the views of many Canadians who come from the regions of the country and their understanding and thoughts on the direction Canada should be taking, as someone who listened to the throne speech and the promise of a united Canada, a strong Canada, a Canada that will be developed into the next decade.

I would like to take a minute out from that side of it, because I believe this country, if we go back in history to the founding Fathers of Confederation and John George Diefenbaker and *Roads to Resources* and Sir John A.

Macdonald and the railroad, was built on the pillars of resources which enabled us to build the cities and the future of this country.

In this period of time it is the regions of this country that are going through some very, very difficult economic times.

• (1650 )

I refer to regions where 4,000 single industry towns, communities are being jeopardized with pressures from groups of Canadians and people from around the world who do not recognize or understand that the resources are the pillars of this country.

In the throne speech the Prime Minister and this government recognize the fact that literacy is going to be one of the greatest challenges today and tomorrow. The reason I want to pick that section out of the throne speech is because it is reflected in my riding of Timiskaming in northern Ontario. It is also reflected in parts of northern Quebec, northern Alberta, the Yukon and Newfoundland. The country we gather our resources from, whether it is in the mining industry, forestry, agriculture or fisheries, it is the livelihood of individuals which may be third or fourth generation, in which their grandfather, father and now themselves have been able to garner a way of life. There was stability in a resource that no one ever thought would be in jeopardy. These people say, my dad was a coal miner, my great grandfather was a coal miner and I had the opportunity to be one too.

When we look at the over-all picture, and that is basically what Canada has to do at this point, we are in an a period of adjustment in the industrial side, in the cultural side, in understanding each other.

I would like to deal with the industrial side of it because it affects a lot of my constituents as well as a lot of individual Canadians, who through no fault of their own, have now lost or are about to lose their livelihood and what they believed in and what they thought would be their future.

Individuals have worked in the mining community, for instance, for generations. They left school at 14 or 15 because they were big, strapping young men who were able to get the opportunity to work underground. At that time if you were good with a shovel, you had a strong back and strong arms, you made a good dollar. You were able to work. You retired, up until a few years ago, without a pension. Of course, the social network has