

Along the same line let me quote from the report of the Task Force on National Unity to Parliament in January, 1979: The attitude of politicians and civil servants in Ottawa towards their provincial counterparts is that of a superior dealing with an inferior . . . we cannot help but regard this as a significant cause of conflict between governments.

Some way must be found for there to be an equal partnership between the regions of Canada, and equal partnership means no senior partners and no junior partners.

Western Canadians, in general, want ways and means of ensuring regional input into national decision making. They want a precise clarification of the division of powers between provinces, municipalities, and the federal government. The westerner says that the west and the north have achieved maturity but Ottawa will not recognize it. The master-servant relationship between Ottawa and the west is unacceptable today. The force called western alienation is alive and well, and growing. The views expressed seem to represent the basic and fundamental needs of those living west of the Lakehead, including the north, to be an equal partner in all decisions affecting them. Those are some of the thoughts that are prevalent in western Canada, and those are some of the trends that I fear.

What are the implications of what is taking place out there for Ontario, in particular, and for the federal government and the rest of the country in general? The implications are clear. Decision-making must be brought home to the provinces. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) is clearly on record as saying, and meaning, that every decision that can be made at the municipal level should be made there; every decision that can be made on a provincial basis should be made there; and only those decisions that affect all of Canada and are of importance to all of Canada should and can be made at the federal level.

● (1710)

In one way or another western Canada can no longer be and will no longer be the weak sister of eastern Canada. No longer are western Canadians prepared to accept a confederation in which a political party, by winning Ontario and by winning Quebec, could ignore the rest of the country. If the west has found this unfair, I pity the poor maritimers with their small populations.

I would like to give this government a shopping list of some of the things which it could do if it really wished to respond to the legitimate desires and requirements of British Columbia. Let us consider the port of Vancouver. Three times this old government has introduced legislation to give more autonomy to the port of Vancouver, and three times it has only gone as far as first reading. The port of Vancouver should be totally independent and operated by British Columbia people living in British Columbia. The bureaucrats of Ottawa should have absolutely no power in terms of decision-making authority over the port.

We live on the Pacific rim and look to the Pacific for our trade and markets. We neither expect nor desire civil servants in Ottawa to understand our problems. Nor should the bureau-

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crats of the National Harbours Board be telling us from a great distance what we can and cannot do. As an example, the port of Seattle is totally locally controlled and in the past ten years has advanced tremendously at the expense of Vancouver. What we want is local control of that port, not control by the National Harbours Board and long detailed correspondence with Ottawa. It is in the national interest that we be allowed to compete quickly with local decision-making.

The west coast fishery is another point. It is different from the inland fishery, from the Atlantic fishery and the Newfoundland fishery. What is required as a minimum is a deputy minister of Pacific fisheries located on the west coast and dealing on a daily basis with west coast fishermen, rather than by long distance to Ottawa. At best, there should be a minister of Pacific fishery in the government who deals with that area alone and who preferably comes from British Columbia. If the Canadian Wheat Board were in Ottawa, every prairie farmer would understand exactly what I mean when I talk about the Pacific fishery.

I have one other point. Every board, commission, task force, study group, advisory panel, Crown corporation or whatever should be examined very carefully with one point in mind.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. I am very sorry indeed to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

Mr. Cook: Mr. Speaker, I need but one minute.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Cook: Does each region of this country have full and proper representation in the decision-making? If not, it had better be changed if the government wishes to silence the secessionists.

What this country needs is a new national dream, and this time not steel rails to bind us together but a national dream of the heart and mind bound together, one to another, as equals, and each participating in decisions for the benefit of all. Is that not the dream of all Canadians, and is that not what most of Quebec is really saying and also the Atlantic provinces and certainly the west, that they want a new and true confederation of equals? That is the challenge to this government, to figure out how it can be done, how we can all feel equal and be equal in a united, new confederation.

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State, Mines): Mr. Speaker, hon. members of the House of Commons, I am indeed honoured to have this opportunity to offer my contribution to the debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. At the outset I would like to offer Madam Speaker my sincere good wishes and my hearty congratulations upon her elevation to the chair. Hon. members may have noticed that unlike other hon. members, I have very little difficulty in addressing her by the proper prefix. I am confident that in her career as Speaker she will continue to distinguish herself as she has in the past. Indeed, by her very presence here in this chamber she will strengthen the role of women in the affairs of