

addressed if we are to solve the over-all economic problems which exist in the country.

**Mr. Jean-R. Roy (Timmins):** Mr. Speaker, at the outset of my remarks I hope I have your indulgence to say a few words of a personal nature. You well know, Mr. Speaker, that since early May I have been absent from the House due to illness. During that illness I had much time for reflection. So often during that reflection the bonds and friendships made in this House came to my mind, and I want to say that any illness a member suffers is, in one way, an advantage. It gives one an opportunity to renew perspectives and reflect upon the friendships formed in this House with other members, irrespective of their political persuasion. It is at such times we realize how deeply are those bonds of friendship which we form, and how much they mean to us. With your permission, I should like to thank my colleagues for their concern about my health, for their kind words, and certainly for their prayers. All of these were helpful, very comforting and satisfying to me.

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

**Mr. Roy (Timmins):** I would be remiss if I did not include my constituents in my thanks. At such a time their sympathy and concern for their member of parliament is very much appreciated—whatever they may think of him at other times.

Referring now to the Speech from the Throne, I am very pleased that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the government concentrated on the two major areas which present problems to Canada at the present time—the economy and national unity. I think we would be neglecting our duty, and quite possibly derelict in our duty, if we spent too much time on other issues in this session. Unless we spend most, or all, of our time on these two issues I think we will have failed the constituents we represent here.

There was substantial mention of energy in the Speech from the Throne, but in my view energy is just one element of the economic problems of this country and of the world. We all recall that the energy problem precipitated the crisis in world economies that we see today. I am not a professional economist, Mr. Speaker, but I know that, historically, trade was originally done by barter. Goods were exchanged by one country or one group with another country or group. As trade expanded, a better method of exchange was needed, so goods were bartered for hard currency—gold coins and silver. As trade expanded further, the currency exchanges were too bulky and inefficient, so there came about simple transfers on books of account of goods from one country to another.

This vehicle of currency for international trade became so important that it was actually more important than the exchanged goods. Indeed, in today's international trade there are countries which cannot operate at capacity or cannot sell their goods because the countries which need those goods do not have the funds, credit, or debt-creation capacity to buy the goods. The currency vehicle has thus become more important than the goods themselves, to the point that we now have fantasy currencies. The special drawing rights are what I term

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fantasy currency, because their only backing is agreement between countries that these special drawing rights are acceptable for trade. In the last 10 to 20 years trade has expanded to the degree that even these special drawing rights do not permit the reasonable exchange of goods or the expansion of trade between countries, so we are looking for new structures. Hopefully, heads of governments and people charged with this responsibility will find a new way of permitting the expansion of trade between countries.

In the area of international trade, no country is more vulnerable than ours because of the large volume of goods we produce and export. Indeed, no country can find itself so easily in difficulty because of world trade crises or slowdowns in world economy. For that reason, I think the throne speech pointed out that there must be structural adjustments, especially in the international economy. But this, I am sure, will reflect on adjustments that will be necessary within the internal economies of countries such as ours. I think the throne speech intimates that to make possible these structural adjustments, to make the people accept the consequences of these adjustments, there must be a change in attitude, one that would say that the people of Canada should take less and sacrifice more, rather than expect and demand more.

● (1652)

Today, Mr. Speaker, I want to present to the government of Canada for its consideration, and I hope eventual implementation, a practical proposal which would make it less difficult to accept those changes, a proposal that would make it more easily acceptable to take less, to make more sacrifices. I am asking the government to consider a massive "Buy Canadian" campaign. I think that if we could change the attitude of the Canadian people by making a special effort to encourage the purchase of Canadian goods which they need, instead of buying imported goods we would be well on our way to regaining the economic strength that we had in the past ten years.

I do not mean that Canadians should change what they purchase. If a person needs a refrigerator, he needs a refrigerator. However, the country of origin where the refrigerator is produced has a great deal of significance for the Canadian economy. Some people might say that it costs more to buy Canadian, and in some instances it might, Mr. Speaker. But, surely, the cost to Canadians is not simply the price tag that is put upon an article in a merchant's shop. Surely, the cost of unemployment at the present time, the cost of our presently stagnating economy, is reflected in the cost of that article in the store. So if we can eliminate unemployment and a stagnating economy, we can also eliminate the difficulty in purchasing Canadian goods as compared to imported goods.

The beauty of buying Canadian goods is that it has a double effect. If someone buys a \$100 article imported from a foreign country, \$100 Canadian goes to that foreign country. But if that person buys a similar item which is produced in Canada, he is putting his \$100 into the Canadian economy. So in that respect, by buying Canadian instead of an import he is really