

The Address—Mr. Oberle

some period of time to the realities of northeastern British Columbia. It has been a somewhat uphill battle to convince British Columbia to join in the scheme and to allow for a change so that the people in the north who sit on top of the energy will share on a fair and equitable basis in some of the benefits that will accrue.

● (1730)

Briefly I referred to the report published out of my office. If I may digress a little, I spent two years researching in order to point out, not only to my friends in the House of Commons but to all Canadians, some of the very real disadvantages which 5 per cent of Canadians living in 80 per cent of our land mass suffer as a result of the discriminatory tax regime in the country. I would encourage all my friends to read the report; it is available out of my office. In the report I pointed out that those 5 per cent of Canadians pay \$470 million in unfair taxes every year. The report marks the beginning of a crusade I intend to take up over the next year in the north and in the south as well. It will encourage Canadians not only to remove the disparities, but to establish an equitable and fair system in the north to entice and encourage other Canadians, particularly young ones, to move away from the artificial, plastic and concrete environment of our cities, which are sustained by the resources of the north, to join in the excitement and the available opportunities of the north.

I notice I have reached the end of my time. I wanted to get that plug in because I am a little excited about this document. It may well be the most important thing I will do in my political career, particularly if my ideas are accepted by the government. Of course they are already accepted in the fact that federal public servants posted in isolation in the north are receiving very, very significant northern allowances and benefits which are not available to other northerners. I wanted to get this plug on the record today before the House recessed because I hope a lot will be heard about the report in the summer months.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I believe there is unanimous consent for the House to revert to Routine Proceedings in order that I may table the First Report of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates. I should like to report on a bill which was approved today.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. The hon. member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) seeks the unanimous consent of the House to revert to routine proceedings in order to present a report. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

MISCELLANEOUS ESTIMATES

First report of Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates—Mr. Gauthier.

[Editor's Note: For text of above report see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mrs. Côté for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): This being the second Speech from the Throne to which I am exposed since becoming a member of the House, Mr. Speaker, I must confess that my reaction this time is quite different from the one I had when I heard the first one under a Progressive Conservative administration.

When I rose to deal for the first time with the address, I remember I was highly pessimistic, while this time around I am quite optimistic. A few minutes ago, as I was going over the notes for my speech of a few weeks ago, I came across my election pamphlet and realized that nearly all the promises which my party and I had made to my constituents of Shefford are part of the first Speech from the Throne, and that the local projects to which we had committed ourselves are being carried out just now.

While dealing with the Speech from the Throne, I think I can inform my constituents of the steps the government has taken and its attitude toward its commitments.

● (1740)

I think it is very important for us all to keep in mind what responsibility is all about and particularly for voters to realize that at a certain point in time politicians can make commitments and then keep them. I think that is probably going to be the trade mark of this Parliament and this government.

Like all my colleagues I would like to talk about the constitution because I think it is the vital element that is keeping us in active politics, particularly these years, and in commenting the result of the referendum I think my colleagues and I have all worked very hard to get a No-majority in Quebec, and I am thinking in particular of my colleague, the Hon. Jean Chrétien, the Minister of Justice, who certainly managed to give all members from Quebec and several citizens of Quebec the desire to win. I think we should pay tribute to