

He comes from western Canada. I have been trying to think of a single government program where the West gets its fair share based on its population. I have struggled for the past nine years to find a single example of where western Canada gets its fair share of anything. I have yet to find that.

Has my hon. friend come across any government initiative in a comprehensive national program based on population base where the West gets its fair share? Has the Hon. Member been able to determine any single federal program of that nature?

Mr. Taylor: Madam Speaker, I appreciate the question from my hon. colleague, the Hon. Member for Kamloops (Mr. Riis), a Member who has a great deal more experience than I have in this Chamber and a Member who has had many more years than I to investigate this matter. In my short period of time I too have failed to find any program whatever that would deliver a fair shake to the people of western Canada. I hope eventually that with the skills which the Member displays and the skills I hope to acquire we will one day be able, if we cannot find them, create programs to give a fair share to western Canada.

[Translation]

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore): Madam Speaker, it is a great honour for me to take part in a debate so crucial to the future of this country. I think that this Throne Speech sets the best goals and aspirations for Canada and Canadians. As a new Member, I am proud to be a part of the team led by our Prime Minister, who is a strong and wise leader. I am also proud to be a member of this Progressive Conservative Government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. McCreath: For a Nova Scotian, my French is not that bad, if I say so myself.

Some Hon. Members: Very good!

• (1700)

[English]

Mr. McCreath: It is remarkable the extent to which my concept of Canada is reflected in the goals and objectives set forth in the first page of the Speech from the Throne which marvellously articulates a concept of the direction in which our country should go in the years ahead.

My concept of Canada is a Canada economically strong and self-reliant. It is a Canada that makes effective use of the abundant resources that we have at our disposal and makes careful exploitation of those resources in order to provide the greatest benefit, not

only for Canada and Canadians but indeed for the people of the world.

It is a Canada in which we have as our goal the social security and safety of every Canadian. It is a Canada that seeks full employment for every Canadian and an adequate and meaningful job for every person who wishes to have one within our country. It is a Canada that welcomes the challenge of economic development, that looks to the opportunities of international trade, and is prepared to reach out to all the corners of the world.

One of the important initiatives undertaken by the Government in recent years was when it recognized the potential impact of our multicultural society for the development of trade, because it was prepared to capitalize on the linkages that we have with all the peoples of the world.

As an immigrant nation with citizens from countries all over the world we are in a unique position to develop trade and take advantage of not only the personal connections which Canadians have, but the linguistic skills that give us linkages into every country of the world.

My Canada is a Canada that is a nation of people who have respect for this wonderful land with its natural endowment of resources, including the air we breathe, the water we drink, our fields and forests, our lakes, rivers and oceans, our birds and animals and, most important of all, our people, be they young or old, men or women, recent arrivals or multi-generational Canadians, *anglais, francais, ou d'autres*.

Above all, Canada is a land of diversity. A key to understanding this country is understanding the implications of our diversity from one end of the country to the other. Diversity exists in Canada on many planes, cultural, linguistic, socio-economic, climactic, geographical and, as a Nova Scotian, one of which I am so well aware, regional.

Diversity means for Canadians that we have differing perspectives toward national issues. We do not all approach national issues in the same manner. Understanding comes from recognizing and, more important, accepting the implications of the differing perspectives of Canadians from different regions with different languages and different cultures.

The real challenge of those who are charged with governing this country is to come to grips with the fact that they have to recognize that Canadians see issues differently and that they are prepared to accommodate the legitimate and reasonable aspirations of Canadians from different regions with different cultures and linguistic groups.