

*The Address—Mr. Frith*

the short run, will ensure this generation of young Canadians meaningful contributions to our economic and social institutions.

The most important lesson Sudbury has learned in the past few years is the need to diversify its economic base. Only through diversification can we lessen our dependence on a single depleting resource. We realize that significant changes must take place in the economic infrastructure over the next two decades in order to address this recurring problem that is faced by many Canadian towns and cities.

My saddest moments occur when meeting young, energetic Canadians who, through no fault of their own, are unable to obtain satisfying employment in their field of learning and are forced to waste their talents in other areas. That is why I was so heartened this morning to note in the Speech from the Throne that it is the intention of this government to place high on its list of priorities the industrial strategy that we so badly need in this country. There was also mention of a new technological program for young people to develop their own talents in their areas of professional and technical expertise.

One subject which requires immediate attention is Canada's commitment to the level of research and development. In the November, 1978, budget introduced by the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien) a beginning was made to provide larger tax write-offs to stimulate research and development. This process must be accelerated. It is a well-known fact that Canada lags far behind other western industrialized nations in the percentage of gross national product used to stimulate research and development. We, as a nation, must place a high priority in this field because it is only through a significant increase in the dollars spent on research and development that we can hope to attain worldwide expertise in new technological bases which in turn generate employment opportunities for Canadians. It will be a combination of a bold industrial strategy and enhanced levels of research and development that will alleviate regional disparities in Canada.

Cardinal Suenens, the Belgian cardinal, once declared, "Happy are those who dream dreams and are prepared to pay the price to make them come true." Well, I have a dream. I dream of a country, understanding of its parts and confident of its whole, welcoming its cultural and linguistic differences, and sharing its economic diversity. I chose to use the word "understanding" rather than the word "tolerating" because I dislike the verb "tolerate". How often have we heard the phrase, "I can tolerate western Canada's ambitions" or "tolerate French Canada's aspirations"? I do not wish to tolerate them; I want to understand them, and to understand them one must live with them, if not in their own habitat, at least to begin to commiserate with their hearts.

As a person raised in northern Ontario I have witnessed the export of our youth to other areas of Canada in search of employment because opportunities in their particular professional or technical area of expertise did not exist in one-industry towns. Most northern Ontario communities depend on the economic fortunes of single, depleting resources. For too long I have witnessed our resources shipped to rich areas south for

processing, leaving northern Ontario, 112 years after confederation, the victim of a hinterland economy.

Two weeks ago in an address to the Empire Club in Toronto, Sheik Yamani of Saudia Arabia stated that his country preferred to deal with multinational oil companies rather than state-owned oil companies, for the very selfish reason that multinational oil companies exchange technologies for the resource. By the use of bartering the resources of his country for new technologies, Yamani will create technologies that foster employment for future generations of Saudia Arabians. Should we as Canadians, therefore, expect less from Albertans? Theirs too is an economy based on a self-depleting resource, and as a person from northern Ontario I understand too well their aspirations to develop new technologies and employment opportunities for the next several generations of young Albertans.

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

● (1440)

**Mr. Frith:** This development of the various regions of Canada need not be at the expense of others. Surely as Canadians we realize that a strong western and Atlantic Canada are as important to Confederation as a strong central Canada. The development of new technological bases in western Canada can be fueled by the manufactured machinery of central Canada. We must begin to understand that by strengthening the parts we strengthen the whole, and that by promoting regional cannibalism, we begin the road to self destruction. The strength of confederation has been the ability of the federal system to share and redistribute the resources of the various regions of Canada in order to preserve an economically and socially progressive federation.

[*Translation*]

Of course, the eighties will put the federal system to a serious test and whether it is the alienation feeling in the west or separatism in Quebec, the same challenge remains—the federation will have to meet the new regional needs while representing the entire country.

Madam Speaker, I reside in the largest officially bilingual area in Ontario after Ottawa, of course, the national capital. I say so with pride because the people of Sudbury have learned to appreciate and accept the enrichment of the French culture and language. Thanks to its large French-speaking and multicultural population, Sudbury has become a cosmopolitan area endowed with a bilingual university, a French and English theatre, a French newspaper as well as French radio and television stations.

[*English*]

In contrast, as a person who represents part of the province of Ontario I am somewhat embarrassed by the treatment of the Francophone population in the province of Ontario when it comes to the schooling of children in Penetanguishene.

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