

have inherited from our preceding legislators, put aside, for the present, our political prejudices and work together as diligently as we can, not for the good of our party, our province or our government, but dedicated entirely to the good of our beloved country and its 25 million Canadians.

Honourable senators, the Speech from the Throne outlined an architectural blueprint for this Second Session of the Thirty-third Parliament that is all-embracing, and if we apply ourselves industriously and conscientiously to our task, we can renew and reconstruct the Canada of our dreams.

The national reconciliation program should be fully acceptable to all people. Who can quarrel with consultations with the provinces on the Canadian Charter of Rights and the Constitution that could lead to the full assent of Quebec? Who could object to updating the 17-year old Official Languages Act to have it conform to the Canadian Charter of Rights, or to updating the 50-year old National Parks Act?

● (1620)

The triad of economic renewal, social justice and constructive internationalism contains many initiatives which I heartily support.

The economics package, aside from trade issues which I have mentioned, undertakes further and comprehensive tax reform based on fairness, simplicity and a "balance between personal income and other taxes" such as those for corporations. This has long been advocated by many economists and various politicians. Canadians and business people will welcome a reduced burden of paperwork and regulations, the promotion of small business entrepreneurial values, especially among youth, the removal of barriers to interprovincial trade and further privatization of crown corporations. Maritimers and westerners will applaud the deregulation of the transportation sector which has brought a handicap of distance to their industries. And those two distant regions, the west and the east, are hopeful that the "new approaches to regional development" are designed to give them a fairer shake and fairer treatment. I praise the emphasis on diversifying western Canada's economic base, and I know that the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency with local input will be well received by those worthy people, and that they will applaud the improvement of small craft harbours in fishing areas.

Our Banking, Trade and Commerce Committee will be profoundly interested in the proposed new framework for the financial services industry, in the Estey report and the concern expressed generally about the concentration of corporate powers.

Many in this chamber will be exhilarated and delighted with support committed to post-secondary education, the initiative for \$1 billion of new funding for scientific and university research and the motives behind a national advisory board for industrial technology.

Nationalists, peace lovers and scientists will praise the establishment of a Canadian space agency designed for peaceful purposes. It could even help stop our brain drain in this industry.

[Senator Barootes.]

In the agenda proffered on social justice, I will deal with only two additional areas, the first of which is Canada's drug abuse epidemic. Public health epidemiologists classify an epidemic as a disease affecting 2 to 4 per cent of the population of an area or region. Is there anyone here who does not believe that more than 3 or 4 per cent of our people are victims of this disease of the abuse and misuse of addictive drugs? This is worse than an epidemic, fellow senators, it is a national calamity. It affects millions of people and their families. It can no longer be a hushed-up or closet problem. It must be faced. As a doctor once involved in the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council in Saskatchewan, I am most gratified that the Throne Speech states that:

A national drug strategy and a comprehensive program dealing with impaired drivers will be brought forward to support the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse.

Second, in the area of social affairs, I am sure that Senator Haidasz, Senator Bosa and others will be pleased to hear that legislation to simplify and improve the process of determining eligibility for political refugee status is to be presented. Further, and something that will be of special interest to Senator Bosa, our ethnic groups will be encouraged to use the entrepreneurial skills that they have so that these skills will be more fully enhanced and utilized in our economy.

The third leg of this stool, of course, was the subject of constructive internationalism—that of preserving world peace and security. Our credibility as an independent and influential voice in these matters—in arms control, disarmament and nuclear verification—is highly recognized through efforts initiated by Lester Pearson, expanded by Pierre Trudeau and advanced by Joe Clark. Our sensitive and sensible initiatives as peacekeepers in the Commonwealth, in NATO and in the South African question have gained respect and attention and have helped defuse many explosive situations.

Honourable senators, the Throne Speech contains more than 45 new initiatives and proposals. Its programs are widespread and will address the needs and desires of many interest groups, national, regional and minority groups. It will touch upon and affect every individual in Canada. The government has listened and responded to their needs and representations.

How these desirable objectives are specifically to be attained will be disclosed in the days to come by ministerial statements and by tabled legislation. We will then have the opportunity and the duty to scrutinize and debate the issues raised once they have been defined in more detail.

I thank honourable senators for their indulgence and attention to these remarks. For the many reasons I have outlined, I have the honour, privilege and pleasure to second the motion for an address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

**Hon. D.G. Steuart:** Honourable senators, I really hadn't thought that I would enter into this debate, and I am not going to enter into it at any great length. I would first like to state that I got into politics shortly after the Second World War. The only reason I got into politics was because, when I returned to Canada, we in Saskatchewan had elected a CCF