

[Translation]

How things change after an election, Mr. Speaker! The "common man" from Shawinigan has become the spokesman for Bay Street. How extraordinary! A revolution! As legal adviser, he will undoubtedly defend the interests of the multinationals and American corporations. What a dreadful omen for the future!

[English]

I was impressed by the ringing declaration of the Leader of the Opposition to the effect—and I think I got it right—that governments, it was said, should always do what they say they are going to do, with just about that degree of emphasis.

The Throne Speech of 1980 given by the then government contained the following words, and I paraphrase but modestly: "18 cents a gallon is too much". "We must reduce the rate of unemployment". It was 800,000 then and it rose to 1.5 million. "We are going to arrest the growth in the size of government". It was \$60 billion per year then. It is \$100 billion now and climbing every day as a result of their mismanagement. Then the big one in the Throne Speech: "Elect us and we are going to reduce the deficit in a planned and orderly way". It was because of four solemn undertakings made and violated by the Liberal Party that the Canadian people placed not the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition, because he was not here, but his colleagues in opposition for a long, long time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition alluded to a growing concern in recent years about the perception of Parliament and the fact that it does not appear to be in full control of government, parliamentary committees are less than effective and the role of the individual Member is under attack. Canadians, irrespective of politics, want to know that the elected Members are in charge to the extent humanly possible of Canada's affairs and that government, again irrespective of stripe, is accountable to the duly-elected Member of Parliament.

● (1610)

Therefore, for that reason among others we announced the creation of a parliamentary task force to deal with this vital matter. I am honoured today to be able to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that one of the most outstanding Parliamentarians of my generation has accepted the chairmanship. I refer to the Hon. James McGrath.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: In congratulating the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. James) for his conviction in and great knowledge of the petrochemical industry in his area, I want as well, and I think he would want me to do it, to—

[Translation]

—underline the graceful and eloquent manner in which the Hon. Member for Montreal-Mercier (Mrs. Jacques) seconded the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne yesterday.

The Address—Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney

Although she is the youngest Member of the House of Commons, Mr. Speaker, she delivered her speech with obvious ease and self-assurance, and I think that she belongs to the generation of Quebecers and Canadians who are now striving for a stronger, more open and more generous Canada.

[English]

In terms of improvements, there are many. I will not list them today, but one of the dramatic improvements that have been made since the new Government took office has been the quality of some of the ambassadors appointed. Yesterday, in a moving speech by Stephen Lewis, the new Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, with regard to Ethiopia and the problems of Africa, he cut out and set out important policies and views. He spoke movingly of the situation in Africa. I know I speak for all Members of this House in saying, as did the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark), that we shall provide leadership and assistance in this grave crisis.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Mulroney: It was with deep consternation and sorrow that we learned last week of the tragic death of Mrs. Gandhi, and again I would like to extend my personal heartfelt condolences and those of all my fellow Canadians to her son, the Prime Minister, and to the other members of her family. Canada is determined to maintain close and cordial relations with the world's most populous democracy.

[English]

Still in the area of external affairs, yesterday I had the opportunity of conveying personal congratulations and those of my Party—and I know I spoke for all Members of this House—to President Reagan as Leader of the United States of America.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: I know I spoke for all Members of this House, even some people in the galleries. In fact, I may say parenthetically that the Liberal convention was a dismaying event. Not the result; I was delighted with the result. I refer to the visceral anti-American feelings that were expressed. The hostility to our friends saddened and disappointed many Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: Canadians responded on September 4. The United States is our friend, neighbour, ally and largest trading partner. We value our friendship with the United Kingdom, France, the United States, and our other allies and supporters. Recognition of this is an act of maturity, not of servility. Our intention as a government is to maintain those first-class relationships around the world.

[Translation]

In a few moments, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I will have to leave for the airport. I have already mentioned this to