

The Address—Mr. O'Neil

Our Government has started the process of reducing our huge budgetary deficit. The people of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso realize that long-term economic security cannot be achieved simply by spending government money. Decisions to invest must have a rational business basis. My constituents know this better than any other group of Canadians because of the failure of northern Nova Scotia to establish a stronger economic base despite the input of large sums of government money.

The Prime Minister has confirmed the commitment of our Government to assist the needy. Ours is a government that is compassionate. The Throne Speech outlined the Government's commitment to the elderly, the disabled, the poor, to reducing inequality between the sexes, and to the preservation of our health care system. The Prime Minister has announced action on spousal allowances and veterans' benefits.

I am proud to be a Progressive Conservative. Our Party believes in sound management and compassionate leadership. I am proud to be led by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. He will be remembered as the Canadian leader who turned this country around and as a Prime Minister with the courage to lead.

Mr. Foster: Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the new Member on his speech in the House today. However, I also want to say that it is my understanding that it is the practice in the House not to refer to Members by their names but rather by their constituencies. I think we should follow that practice in the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member is perfectly right. I was aware of it but the Hon. Member is a new Member in the House and not the only one to do so in his first speech. The comment by the Hon. Member for Algoma (Mr. Foster) is well taken and should be noted by other new Members in the House.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, I too want to congratulate the Hon. Member on his first speech. He indicated that he had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens). I assume that his conversation would have dealt with concerns for industrial development in the Cape Breton area. Would the Hon. Member give us his views on how industrial development in that particular area would be encouraged?

Second, would he address himself to an issue which concerns our Party? In the program changes that have been announced by the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, there has been an elimination of three categories of support for industrial and regional development program grants in constituencies such as the Hon. Member's. There has been the elimination of support for tourism projects, for restructuring projects, and for business climate studies.

I suggest that these projects would be of particular importance to the steel and coal industry in Nova Scotia and particularly Cape Breton. As the New Democratic Party critic for industrial regional development, I would be very interested

in the Hon. Member's reaction to the steps taken by the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. With respect to my ideas for industrial development in my constituency, I believe that a basic principle to be followed is, first to develop our indigenous resources to their full potential. In the case of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso, that will require that we stabilize our fishing industry, and that we fully take advantage of our marketing opportunities and fully develop our forestry sector. We have a very large and successful pulp and paper company. We must do everything possible to protect our renewable resources in forestry and the fishery.

The Hon. Member knows that the Government has established a separate Ministry of Forestry. Part of its function will be to protect our forests.

Our agricultural industry must also be protected because it too is a renewable resource. These sectors provide permanent jobs on which people must rely.

With respect to new industry, we have a magnificent harbour in the Strait of Canso. I am looking at possibilities for developing that harbour, but I must say that it is not my personal philosophy that industries should be established there only for the sake of creating jobs if they must also be grossly subsidized.

With respect to the second part of the Hon. Member's question, let me say that I am very pleased with the objectives and the steps taken by the new Minister. His goal is for stable, long-term benefits for my area of the country as well as the area which the Hon. Member represents. I am sure he will deal directly with the Minister if he has particular questions with respect to Essex-Windsor. I have full confidence in the Minister, and I believe he has good programs and ideas to bring forward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If there are no further questions or comments, we shall proceed with debate.

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, first I would like to congratulate the new women parliamentarians who have joined us in the House. I wish them well and I hope that we can work together to voice the many concerns of our sisters across Canada.

Canadians from all provinces voted for a change in government in the hope that it would be a change for a better future for themselves and their children. They want a government they can trust and one with promises that it will keep. They want an end to secrecy, patronage and privileges for the rich.

• (1530)

The Progressive Conservatives come to government at a time when there are 1.5 million Canadians jobless, and technological change will displace many more. We have 4 million poor people, including increasing numbers of children. Young people have few opportunities for jobs or for further education. Women continue to be denied full equality. Added to increas-