

*The Address—Mr. O'Kurley*

However, income security is only one of the major challenges facing our society. Legislation will be introduced to create a national child care program. If we are to have a program of this nature, I personally would like to see that the benefits are offered equally to mothers who choose to stay at home to raise their children as well as to working ones.

The struggle to reduce family violence, child abuse and drug abuse will continue, as will research into AIDS and the diseases of ageing. Criminal law reform will continue, including a review of the Young Offenders Act, and we will be addressing the issue of abortion.

In so doing we are also concerned that scientific advances in reproductive technology, artificial insemination, *in vitro* fertilization, embryo transfer and surrogate parenting will outpace our ability to deal with the moral, ethical, legal and social implications. That is why we will commence a royal commission to inquire into the implications of new reproductive technologies for Canadian society.

These are all actions which address the challenges in our changing Canadian society. Our approach will reflect Canadian values, and it is our intention to ensure that these values are promoted in the wider global community.

That is also why we intend to continue to take a stand in defence of human rights and to fight the scourge of famine. That is why we will work with our northern allies and neighbours to develop a new co-operative ethic in the Arctic. That is why we will continue to be a strong supporter of the United Nations and its agencies and will participate in peacekeeping activities.

That is why we will expand over-all immigration levels while continuing to apply fairly but firmly the new legislation on refugees. That is why we will continue our strong support for international disarmament and will lend our voice to those seeking peace in troubled areas of the world. A caring, compassionate society based on fairness and tolerance that describes Canada today. Those are the values that will underpin our domestic and foreign policies.

The final objective is a commitment to national unity, fostering the values that make Canada unique. Our country is one of the most dynamic, peaceful and promising nations in the world. When we compare our situation with that of others, we realize why a foreign diplomat once described Canada as a solution in search

of a problem. We have achieved much in little more than a century. We have much to be thankful for and much to celebrate. We are to have a big celebration in 1992 on our one hundred and twenty-fifth birthday to do just that.

In the meantime, we want to bring Canadians together as individuals. We will continue to support the development of our cultural life and our rich multicultural heritage. Elk Island is rich in culture with many people of British, German and Ukrainian descent, as well as people of French and Dutch heritage and many, many others. We will ensure that Canada's cultural voice can be seen and heard in broadcasting, film and video. We will be introducing a new Citizenship Act, and we will be establishing a Canadian race and relations foundation to encourage racial harmony.

We will also be taking steps to ensure that our political institutions remain strong. We are going to build upon the recent achievements in parliamentary reform. There will be new conflict of interest standards for parliamentarians, and there will be a commission to recommend changes and reforms to electoral laws. I would like to see more consideration given to seniors and rural votes when electoral laws are reviewed.

Finally, we will continue to seek a constitution for all Canadians, Albertan and Québécois alike. We believe the ratification of the Meech Lake Accord is indispensable to the further evolution of the Canadian Constitution, and with Québec once again at the table as a willing participant. We can get on with the issues of Senate reform, aboriginal and linguistic rights, the roles and responsibilities over the fisheries resource, and the ways to strengthen the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The Meech Lake Accord may not be perfect, but it does represent progress. It offers more autonomy to the provinces in areas like Senate appointments, immigration and the appointment of Supreme Court judges. Cultural policies, a new Citizenship Act, measures to promote cultural harmony, parliamentary reform, constitutional progress are the materials of our commitment to national unity and to the fostering of values that make Canada unique.

In conclusion, those are just some of the initiatives we will see from the Government over the next four years, but no doubt that is not all that we will see and hear. In Elk Island we will see industrial expansion and growth in small business and manufacturing. We will see more effective and efficient farming practices.