

*The Address—Ms. Copps*

Speaker, we already know that the polls reveal that Canadians are wary of the Prime Minister's word, they do not believe him anymore because he tricked them too often, saying one thing to some people and something else to others.

[English]

The public is sceptical, with good reason. If we look to the area of housing, which is another area within my responsibilities as critic, there is not a single mention in the Speech from the Throne with respect to the plight of the thousands of Canadian homeless who will be facing a very cold winter. What we have seen again is the divestment—

[Translation]

The Government is shirking its responsibilities towards the provinces because the federal Government does not want to provide the housing services such as had been promised by the former Liberal administration.

For example, if we look at British Columbia—

[English]

We know that the Government in British Columbia is not committed to social housing. In fact, I was shocked to hear the words of the Minister responsible for education in British Columbia who said that he felt that maybe poor people should rethink sending their families to college or university.

I would like to take a few moments to tell the House why my family and I became Liberals. My father was one of six boys raised by a widow in northern Ontario back in the mid-1920s. At that time my grandmother was struggling as a court stenographer to raise her six children. She was anxious to send one of them to school, but she did not have the money to pay for the examination which had to be taken to follow up on post-secondary education. She wrote to the Minister responsible for education in the Province of Ontario at that time and said: "I am a widow with six sons. I would like to send at least one of them, who wants to be a veterinarian, to school so that he can achieve his goal". The Conservative Minister at the time wrote my grandmother and said: "Madam, in your circumstances I think it is highly outrageous that you should even consider sending any of your sons to a post-secondary institution". My grandmother became an ardent Liberal from that day forward. She believed that any Government, including the Sacred Government of British Columbia or the Conservative Government then in Ontario, which would say to poor people that you cannot afford education and that there should not be universal accessibility to it, should not get her vote. I think this political philosophy is a hallmark of what we are seeing here in Ottawa.

With respect to housing, I received a letter today, and I think other Members will be receiving ones in the same vein. They should be aware of the new housing policies of the Government which targets the so-called core needy. The letter I received was from Dora Hilton who lives in Whitby, Ontario. She received a rent increase of 50 per cent in 1985 and another rent increase of 50 per cent in 1986. She is a senior citizen who,

in just two years, has had her rent increased by 100 per cent. Her rent is now almost \$500 a month. The people in her building are extremely upset, but this is the dilemma they face. They have no place to go. Through its sad omission of any reference to housing in the Speech from the Throne the Government has shown it is abandoning a national strategy for housing. It is content to leave the question of housing up to the provinces. I am sure we will have a chance to say more about this subject in the future. However, I draw the matter to the attention of Hon. Members because I think there is a national crisis in terms of housing. Anyone who lives in a major urban centre will be aware of the crisis. Frankly, they will be shocked, as am I, that the Government has made no reference to it in the Speech from the Throne.

As the only opposition Member in the area of Hamilton, the lone voice of Opposition now that the former Member for Hamilton Mountain has departed—

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** I am only 10 miles away.

**Ms. Copps:** He is not from Hamilton, Mr. Speaker. Close, but no banana. He is from Brantford, the home of Wayne Gretzky. We cannot lay claim to Wayne Gretzky. Thus the Hon. Member cannot lay claim to being a Hamiltonian.

There are certain issues currently taking place in the Hamilton area which bear national scrutiny. One deals with the Hamilton airport.

Terminal 1 at the Toronto Airport is in a state of absolute crisis. Most Members have probably been through Terminal 1, and I ask Hon. Members whether or not they agree that Terminal 1 is a disaster area. Terminal 1 is a joke. It is an insult to any person arriving on an international flight who is *en route* to the southwestern Ontario area. I agree that we need to do something about the overcrowding problem. At the same time, only a few kilometers away in the City of Hamilton there is a beautiful \$50 million facility which is lying waste. It was cited by the Auditor General as being one example of our not receiving value for our dollar. It just does not have the necessary passenger loads.

Before the daily trips to Vancouver last summer the total number of passengers travelling through the Hamilton airport was 40. At the same time we were seeing an overload of 4 million passengers only a few kilometers away in the City of Toronto. The then Minister of Transport attended an emergency meeting at the time. He very kindly agreed to receive our Mayor and our Regional Chairman who laid out the problem to him. He was sympathetic, as only he can be. Heaven knows, at times he can be sympathetic and at times he can need our sympathy. We are never quite sure which it is. Nonetheless, he was sympathetic. He said that he would do something about the problem. Only a few days later he issued a press release in which he said that he was proud to announce that he was giving permission to another airline to land at Terminal 1 in the City of Toronto. That airline is TAP of Portugal.