

The Address—Mr. Mulroney

ter's office. Cabinet ministers sometimes spend more time with the PMO than with opposition Parties. They often are treated like kids, like scout masters reporting in to their leaders. There is a fear among individual ministers not to find themselves under criticism from people in the PMO". The people who strut their stuff before the House of Commons, who belligerently tour this country saying "Look at us, we are the boss", whimper like a bunch of school kids when they have to talk to Tom Axworthy. I can imagine a telephone conversation like this: "Tom? This is Lloyd". "Who?" "Your brother. I am an only child. Tom, listen, Tommy, listen to me good. We've got a problem. Ever since you kicked Fleming out of the Cabinet to make room for your pal Smith, he has been grumbling. This morning he told *The Toronto Star* that this Government is being run by deceit and by ballyhoo". "That, Lloyd, is absolutely false. If you do not believe me, ask Keith Davey. I have got to run now, Lloyd. I've got a big problem". "What is that?" "It is the Prime Minister. I got to deal with him this afternoon". "What is the problem?" "It is all this travel; it has gone to his head". "What do you mean?" "He wants to stay". "Oh my God, have we got a problem! Holy smokes! What is big John going to think about this?" "I don't know, Lloyd. We will have to wait until Monday to get his newsletter to find out. This is real tough. All right Lloyd, I'll see you at Winstons on Friday".

Well, now we know who writes the stuff! We have a few things to comment on.

[Translation]

Now that the Prime Minister is back, I cannot miss the opportunity of mentioning that the federal Government tried to introduce a Bill which indeed would have tied the hands of Quebec's Caisse de dépôt et placement, thus hindering its legitimate operations in Quebec and in the rest of Canada. As a result of this odious and ad hoc piece of legislation, the Caisse would have been hamstrung in its vital role, which is to ensure that the assets of three million Quebecers are productive and to provide an unequalled opportunity for an entire segment of Quebec society to benefit from the operations of such a powerful instrument. When the Caisse decides to take action and to have its say in important and complex matters, it does not beat around the bush, it goes straight to the point, and an entire class of our society—mostly French-speaking—stands to gain from such action taken by the Caisse, and that is an important aspect of the growth of a people. I was sorry to see that the Federal Government, with the tacit complicity of Quebec Members, was prepared to take steps likely to frustrate and thwart a whole generation of young Quebecers who are also looking forward to better economic conditions, not only in Quebec, but throughout Canada. That is why we were opposed to the Bill.

● (1220)

[English]

I want to touch briefly on the important matter of international affairs, inasmuch as it has quite properly received

prominence in the Throne Speech. I begin by quoting some remarks made on April 15, 1980 in the House by the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark), as reported at page 27 of *Hansard*. I ask you to listen carefully to the remarks, Mr. Speaker:

The 1980s, Madam Speaker, will not be an easy decade in international affairs. It seems certain to be a period of virtually continuous regional instability. The world economy is fragile, and the intentions and the options of the Third World have hardly begun to be defined. Unhappily as well, there is every indication that relations between the super powers are deteriorating.

That was a particularly perceptive remark given three and one-half years ago by the right hon. gentleman. I want to tell you, as I have done before, Mr. Speaker, that this Party has encouraged and will always continue to encourage as best we can all initiatives—including those undertaken by the Prime Minister—to secure a more durable peace for the world.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: On October 27, when the Prime Minister was speaking in Guelph, I too made a speech which understandably did not receive the attention of the Prime Minister, but I thought I could share with the House just a brief excerpt from what I said on that very same night:

Each of us can advance that cause of peace by recognizing its overwhelming importance and by contributing in some way, however modest, to its achievement. This presupposes respect for those who search for disarmament and peace in ways different—and perhaps less conventional—from us.

I am like many of you here tonight: I have three young children and I want to leave for them a world free of the menace of nuclear war. That would be our greatest gift to the children of the world—

We in the Western Alliance must show both common resolve and common sense if we are to convince the Soviet Union that there can and must be an absolute reduction in the number of nuclear warheads and that world peace urgently demands this be done.

Flexibility and ingenuity have always been the hallmarks of productive negotiations. No such negotiations have ever succeeded without a sense of reasonableness and a becoming degree of objectivity in the analysis of requirements, both for ourselves and the other side—

The alternative to such a genuine commitment is unimaginable and unacceptable—

Our commitment to peace should never be diminished.

Our determination should never slacken.

Our confidence that a true and lasting peace can be obtained should never wane.

In these ways and with God's help, we shall succeed.

Last week we put forward a seven-point program which I hope will interest the Prime Minister. We ask as well that given the vital importance of this matter, the Prime Minister submit for consideration by the House an all-party resolution that would enhance his initiative. We would take cognizance of it immediately. In most of the areas we are talking about common ground and common purpose. It seems to me that the Prime Minister and the country would be enriched by a debate in the House of Commons and it would strengthen his hand as he went around the world in quest of peace.

I can only say, not to be difficult, that the only problem I had was when the Prime Minister reported to a Liberal fund-raising dinner. I only mention that in the interest of freedom of information because only a declining number of