

*The Address—Mr. Collenette*

compromising way. The rhetoric will escalate and Canadians will have to decide.

We had a bill before us in the Thirtieth Parliament calling for the establishment of referenda. I submit, and I am talking here as a private member obviously, that if there is failure to agree on any constitutional change, if there is failure to agree on oil pricing, the people of Canada are going to have to decide once and for all whether they want this competing power game between bureaucratic and political elites to continue to the detriment of the well-being of the collective good of all Canadians.

We have only a few months to resolve these questions. I hope that we can patriate our constitution. I hope that the premiers of the consuming provinces, especially Ontario, will not react if concessions are made to legitimate western applications. On the other hand, I hope that the premiers especially in western Canada and the governments of western Canada, above all Mr. Lougheed, will not try to press their point to its logical conclusion.

There are changes we can make in the constitution which will bide well with western Canadians. We can redefine in any new constitution the provincial ownership of resources clause. We can put limits on the declaratory power. We can perhaps even talk about doing away with the federal power of disallowance which has not been used in 30 years and which perhaps is an anachronism in a modern sophisticated state.

There are concessions we can make; I think our government is prepared to make them. I would urge that they make concessions. I urge that members in my caucus from Ontario, and opposition members from Ontario, help to sell that position in a non-partisan spirit. If we divide on party lines on constitutional change over the next few months, then this country is in for a very rough ride indeed.

I know, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of members who wish to seek the floor. I am sorry that my remarks have been somewhat truncated because of the unusual circumstances. In conclusion, there are members from Ontario, certainly myself as a Liberal member from Toronto, who are prepared to go out in our constituencies and talk in metropolitan Toronto of the need for a deal for every region in this country, even though that will perhaps hurt in some way the opportunities of our own constituencies.

We have to look beyond normal electoral considerations in trying to get re-elected. If we cannot resolve this basic question, we may never get to another federal election in the way we used to. I do not want to be an alarmist, but we have to look at this question very seriously. I hope all members on all sides will do their best to try to sell to their constituents a policy that will give equal opportunity, fairness, and enshrine the principle of sharing right across this country, no matter where one lives.

● (1420)

**Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take part in our discussion on this the last day of the debate on the Speech from the Throne. I request, Mr.

Speaker, that you be kind enough to add my name to the long list of others who have congratulated Madam Speaker on her appointment.

I wish to speak for a few moments about my constituency, the federal riding of Cariboo-Chilcotin. It is a relatively large riding located in the main in central British Columbia. It is about 42,000 square miles in area, just slightly smaller than the area of England. It extends approximately 400 miles from the Pacific port of Squamish in the south to the town of Quesnel in the north. About 75,000 people live within its boundaries. Its major industries include lumbering, pulp and paper, mineral production, cattle ranching and tourism. The riding is divided almost in half along a north-south axis by the mighty Fraser River, the single most important producer of salmon in the world.

The largest portion of the constituency is located inland and has come to be called cariboo country. This area was opened in the 1800s by the gold miners and cattle ranchers. The famous boom town of Barkerville, which in its heyday was the largest community north of San Francisco and west of Winnipeg, is still very much in existence. It has been completely refurbished and is now one of Canada's most popular tourist attractions.

At the southern end of the riding we now have a very ambitious world-class resort being constructed at Whistler in Garibaldi Park. Millions of dollars are being expended on skiing and other recreational facilities. When completed, approximately 26,000 skiers will be accommodated on a daily basis and skiing will continue for 11 months of the year.

It is important to note that inland we have the Hat Creek coal deposit, one of the largest in the world. We also have Canada's largest cattle ranch, the Gang ranch. To add to all of this, Mr. Speaker, we have within the boundaries of my constituency 37 Indian bands. I am proud to represent the people of Cariboo-Chilcotin, and especially the native population which makes up a large percentage of my constituents. It is in this particular regard, Mr. Speaker, that I intend to frame the remainder of my address.

I would like to turn to the issue of Indian affairs in Canada. Recently we have had two indications of the depths to which our Indian policy has fallen. The most offensive of these was the case of Sandra Lovelace who has been forced to resort to the United Nations human rights committee to seek justice. This puts us in the same elite group as the Soviet Union, Chile and Idi Amin's Uganda. To say that this is a national disgrace is an understatement. That our system cannot deal with this matter of equal rights is almost beyond comprehension. This is not an issue which has suddenly sprung up on the government; it is a problem which has been sitting in front of us for 111 years.

The second indicator is a recent report on Indian conditions by Mr. R. H. Knox of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Although the report is just a rehash of old statistics presented in a glossy new format, it is useful in bringing public attention to the plight of native people. This is necessary because the Speech from the Throne almost ignored the issue.