

The Address—Mr. Nunziata

privilege from the Hon. Member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon).

Mr. McKinnon: I intended this to be a point of order, Mr. Speaker. It concerns an interjection by the Hon. Member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn) with respect to Canada's position in NATO and our contributions toward defence. If I heard correctly, the Hon. Member said that Canada, on a per capita basis, was in second place. I believe he was supported by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) in that outburst. I would ask the Hon. Member if he could be more explicit and tell us where he got his reference. I am looking at *The Military Balance* for 1984-1985, which was received in the parliamentary Library as recently as three weeks ago. It shows the contributions and comparisons of defence expenditures for the nations of NATO. Under the heading "Dollars Per Capita (in American funds)" it shows Canada in tenth place. In total budget, Canada is shown in sixth place. In percentage of government spending, Canada is in ninth place. In percentage of the Gross National Product—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order. That is not really a point of order. I recognize the Hon. Member for York South-Weston (Mr. Nunziata) as the next speaker.

Mr. John V. Nunziata (York South-Weston): Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by congratulating you on your appointment as Acting Speaker of the House of Commons. I have been most impressed with your firm deliberations and sense of fairness during the first two weeks of this Parliament. Hon. Members from both sides of this House have cause to be proud of their new Speaker. I wish you every success in discharging your new responsibilities.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the "Class of '84", my newly elected fellow Members of Parliament. As has been said, "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth". My congratulations as well to all of the re-elected Members of the House of Commons.

Before I begin my remarks, I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to the residents of York South-Weston for their expression of faith in my candidacy and for placing their trust and confidence in me on September 4. I am proud and honoured to be their Member of Parliament. I give to my constituents, Mr. Speaker, my solemn pledge that I will faithfully discharge my responsibilities with integrity, honesty and thoughtfulness. I will devote my full and complete energies to the task of working not only for the best interests of my constituents but for the best interests of Canadians from coast to coast. It has often been said that a Canadian can enjoy no higher honour than to be selected by his fellow citizens to represent them in this House of Commons. I wholeheartedly believe this to be true.

I feel a very special debt of gratitude to all of those who have devoted their time and energy and who have worked so very hard on my election campaign. I am here because of them and I shall always remember and cherish their generosity and friendship. Please permit me as well, Mr. Speaker, to thank

some very special people in my life, my family, especially my parents and sisters and brothers, for all their devotion, love and hard work.

I would also like to acknowledge my predecessor, the former Member of Parliament for York South-Weston, Mrs. Ursula Appolloni, who served the riding with distinction for ten years. Her work in Parliament reflected her deep commitment to our country. Many Hon. Members of this House will recall that York South-Weston was represented previous to Mrs. Appolloni by the former Leader of the New Democratic Party, the late David Lewis. There is little I can add to what has been said many times about Mr. Lewis's great contribution to Canada and to Parliament. Suffice it to say that I am honoured to continue the work of two distinguished and dedicated parliamentarians.

I understand it is traditional, Mr. Speaker, for a new Member of Parliament to describe the riding he or she represents for the benefit of Hon. Members. The riding of York South-Weston is an urban riding in the west part of Metropolitan Toronto. It can be described as a multicultural working class riding. The proportion of people who describe their country of origin as being other than British or French comprises 53 per cent of the population of York South-Weston. There is a significant Italian community in my riding of which I am a proud member. In fact, 11,000 of my constituents list Italian as their mother tongue. I might add at this point, Mr. Speaker, that the Canadian-Italian community is honoured to have elected to Parliament six Italian Canadians—five Liberals and a Conservative—the most ever in Canadian political history.

There are many nationalities from every corner of the globe in York South-Weston, including people from Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the sub-continent. There is as well a high proportion of new Canadians. Between 1965 and 1978 some 20,000 individuals from other countries decided to make their home within the boundaries of my riding. These new Canadians work side by side with the native born in companies such as Cooper Sports Equipment, Levy Brothers Machinery, Kodak of Canada, Canada Packers and Pepsi-Cola, to name just a few. Although there are cultural, linguistic and racial differences, both new and old Canadians regard Canada as the land of opportunity. Through their hard work and sacrifice they are determined to build a better life for themselves and their families.

My parents immigrated to Canada in the early 1950s and settled in Revelstoke, British Columbia, which happens to be my home town. For them, indeed, Canada was the land of opportunity. They worked hard, they sacrificed and they built a better life for themselves and for their seven children. Canada gave them the opportunity as it gave it to many other immigrants.

There are also many senior citizens in York South-Weston, people who have made this country what it is today. In our deliberations we must never forget the observation of historian Arnold Toynbee that a society's quality and durability can best be measured "by the respect and care given its elderly citi-