

I have yet to see any facts or figures which convince me that there will be benefits for Canadians in this entire matter. That is not to say I cannot be convinced. I am simply saying that at this time no one has brought forward the facts to do so.

Like everyone else in this great country of ours, we have a few problems in the Yukon. However, it is probably one of the most interesting and exciting places in Canada to call home. While we have a wealth of natural resources, the greatest resource of the Yukon will always be its people.

[Translation]

I should like to thank you for your patience today.

I have not had the opportunity to speak French for several years but, with your assistance and your indulgence, I propose to become once again a completely bilingual French Canadian.

[English]

**Hon. Augustus Irvine Barrow:** Honourable senators, in rising to support the motion for an Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, it is with a sense of pride and, at the same time, humility, that I do so. First, I should like to congratulate Senator Lucier on his excellent maiden speech, and on his territory's colourful flag and pin.

If I may reflect on a personal note, slightly over two years ago I entered this chamber, a rather awestruck freshman not knowing quite what to expect and still hearing admonitions from some of my provincial confreres that I would not find the challenge that exists in other fields. How wrong they were. I discovered, contrary to widely held opinion, that I was not one of the youngsters, except as a novice—instead, I was a middleman—and that here was a group from various walks of life who brought to the parliamentary process a depth of knowledge, experience, understanding and feeling for the problems of this country that is unsurpassed.

Also, I have learned that there is a sad lack of understanding of the role intended for and being played by the Senate in our parliamentary process by those who should be better informed, as well as by the general public. To whom this deficiency might be attributed is a moot point. To correct this the direction to be taken must be that of proper publicity in order to heighten the awareness of the public of the work of the Senate and its committees.

● (1450)

Having participated in the work of this chamber during the past session, I look forward to this new session of Parliament and to making a further contribution during the months ahead.

As part of this parliamentary process, we have heard the Speech from the Throne—Her Majesty's government's outline of existing conditions and the measures which it feels are in the interests of all Canadians and which it proposes to implement during the coming months. In proposing these measures the government is not laying down hard and fast rules but, rather, setting out the guidelines which it believes are necessary in these troubled times.

One has but to look at what has happened and is happening to the economy of some of the great countries in Europe and

other parts of the world to wonder if any sensible pattern will develop upon which the peaceful economic stability of the world as we know it will survive. What one sees is not very encouraging, nor is it any great satisfaction to know that most of the problems are man-made, and can be solved by man. This will require more than a little tolerance and understanding, and of many it will require some sacrifice.

In Canada today we have problems of all kinds and it is not my intention to minimize them. There are, however, two or three that I would like to comment upon.

First, I would comment on the economy of the country in general. There is a strong condemnation of the government's anti-inflation program by organized labour and that part of business represented by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Indeed, some of our more outspoken business and union leaders have been more than just vocal in their opposition. Both, however, want the government to do the same thing, but apparently for different reasons. The program may be unpopular with some, considered to be bad medicine by others, and not managed according to the expertise of the "second guessers", but we should look at the effect on the people it was intended to protect, the general public. If we ask ourselves what could have happened, and what are the good effects of this program, perhaps we will find we are not that badly off, and that prices have been contained to a much greater degree than otherwise would have been possible. We should be asking ourselves why it is we have so many strikes and, at the same time, find ourselves being told there are many able-bodied people willing to work but unable to find it.

The government was not stampeded into the anti-inflation program, so let it not be scared into dropping it until there are adequate safeguards or reliable assurances that we will not be faced with a scramble to increase salaries, wages, profits and prices that will result in such economic chaos that even the most vocal of the abolitionists will wish they had used tolerance and understanding instead of seeking ways to upset further the delicate economic balance of this country.

Secondly, government has to realize this country was built, however imperfectly, on our so-called free enterprise system, and, except for times of emergency should restrict its role to that of formulating fiscal and monetary policies instead of competing with or replacing private business. Therefore, I am pleased to see that the Speech from the Throne sets out measures to be adopted to encourage financing for small business and reduce the amount of red tape now required by government from all businesses. Both people and businesses have to stop asking governments to do more and more, the inevitable result of which is high or higher taxation. We must encourage governments at all levels to effect a reduction in rates of taxation by putting a stop to the syndrome of the spiralling upward of spending which can only lead to higher taxation and further feed the fires of inflation.

The third topic I would like to touch upon is that of bilingualism. Whether we like it or not it is with us, and is something that has to be solved through an understanding of both the problems and the possible solutions, and a display of