

The Address—Mr. Boudria

America among its members who, last year, congratulated President Regan. Would you want to be associated with what Ronald Reagan did for the environment?

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boudria: Perhaps the Tory Member who just applauded would like that kind of association, but I wouldn't, Mr. Speaker. Not me.

[English]

The Prime Minister said in the Throne Speech in his thirteenth theme that we should be a generous society. It is hard to believe that the Prime Minister is serious about this issue of being a generous society. I know that not everyone will agree with me on the following topic, but in my opinion any society who fails after this length of time to have any kind of legislation to protect those least able to help themselves—I am speaking here of the unborn—can hardly call itself a generous society under anyone's definition.

I respectfully submit that the failure of the Government to commit itself to a law on abortion—and I know we do not all agree on what the law should contain but it even failed to state that it wanted to have a law—in my view is totally inappropriate.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister told us he wanted to promote the values of Canadian citizenship. How can we take this statement seriously, when during the last three months, the Government has been using Governor General's warrants instead of facing the House? How can we, when the Prime Minister himself repudiated the Constitution of our country in this very House yesterday? I ask Hon. Members opposite: How can we take these comments seriously?

[English]

In conclusion, I want to state that in eastern Ontario, outside the general area of the City of Ottawa proper, there still is considerable hardship and considerable unemployment. This Government has promised in the Throne Speech to have regional development programs for the Atlantic, for western Canada and for northern Ontario. All previous Governments had recognized that northern and eastern Ontario needed development. This particular Government has neglected the words "eastern Ontario". We, as Liberals, have 12 out of 14 seats in eastern Ontario. We refuse to subscribe to the doctrine

dictated to us by the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn). We want to stand up and we want our share for this part of our great country.

[Translation]

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like once more to thank my constituents of Glengarry-Prescott-Russell for the honour and privilege of representing them during another term.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am informed an incident is happening outside the House, and people inside are asked to remain here, even at 3 o'clock, until we can leave.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments?

Mr. Whittaker: Mr. Speaker, I noted with interest the last speaker's comments on government spending and the attitude of the Government toward its spending.

This leads me into another area near and dear to the hearts of westerners, particularly those in the Province of British Columbia, that of patronage contracts and the letting of procurements. In British Columbia, from 1984 through to 1988, procurement dropped from approximately 6 per cent to approximately 4 per cent, with British Columbians having approximately 11.5 per cent of the Canadian population. Given this inequitable situation, what is the position of the Hon. Member's Party with to the letting of government contracts? Will he encourage his Party and his Leader as a Member from British Columbia to encourage equity in the area of patronage contracts and in the area of letting government procurement contracts?

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I want to apologize to the Hon. Member for having missed the first few moments of his question. Our Deputy Whip informed me of the present unfortunate situation going on outside the Chamber, and I will leave that for the present moment. I do apologize. It was not that I did not want to pay attention to his question which is undoubtedly very important.

In the area of the awarding of contracts during the last Parliament and so far in this Parliament, I have been the Government's operations critic for our Party. One of the tasks for such a role in the last Parliament was to establish constructive criticism in awards of contracts, public sector ethics, lobbying legislation and so on, as policies for our Party.