

industrial age, we were going to create satellite industries in farm areas and have more jobs in rural Manitoba. The aim of this program was, of course, the creation of jobs.

While some success is being experienced in Provencher due to DREE programs, it has always been my contention that if grants are to be made available, small businesses in rural areas should be eligible for them. These people have invested their work in the community; these people have staked their lives on their communities. It is private initiative and personal enterprise that provides employment; the government cannot provide the employment that private enterprise provides. I submit, therefore, that rural depopulation can only be arrested in part by encouraging local business to expand. This type of expansion creates long-term employment rather than the band-aid approach that we are again receiving from members opposite.

I understand that DREE is committed to a policy whereby only two centres in Provencher are designated as growth centres. These areas will be eligible for grants. Yet there are many small communities in my riding which are growth centres because of the drive and the initiative of the people. I submit that it is hardly fair for me to go back to these areas and say to the people that I am sorry, but they are not eligible for grants because technocrats in Ottawa have made the decision that they will not grow.

The technocrats in government are saying that most rural areas are not going to survive or, if they do, they will survive without any government help. This policy is wrong and discredits the work and aspirations of the people working in rural areas. Instead, the government should give direct tax incentives to people investing in small rural businesses, in order to encourage growth. It is the responsibility of government to create an atmosphere of confidence in which individuals are willing to invest in these businesses. A decision made by DREE seems to have been that Provencher is similar to other prairie regions. For example, there is rail abandonment in some areas and some communities are finding it difficult to survive. I suggest there are communities in Provencher that are surviving and they should be eligible for DREE grants. They should be considered as growth centres and should be given the credit which is due.

Therefore, I do not accept the criticism, especially from hon. members to my far left, that only business interests will benefit from investment in small businesses. Today an insidious attitude prevails in the minds of many, that as soon as incentives are given to business, the ordinary citizen is being taken advantage of. These people say that surely more money could be spent on various make-work programs.

I submit that the free enterprise system is the only long-term employment creator—employment created on the basis of production and the ability to sell on markets subject to supply and demand. This is beneficial to all Canadians and all people in the work force. I would reiterate what we have been saying throughout the election campaign, that less money should be taken out of the private sector through various forms of taxation and put into the public purse but, rather, the reverse should take place. Let us leave more money in the hands of the private investor: he will invest it in Canada because of his personal drive.

25714—25½

#### *The Address—Mr. Buchanan*

In conclusion, it is with deep humility that I, as a member of the House, have the honour to be one of the first Mennonites to be elected to this House. Next year, in 1974, we will be celebrating the centennial of the first settlement created by Mennonites in Canada in the town of Steinbach, Manitoba. We are but one of the many ethnic groups beginning to plan similar celebrations.

I should like to thank the minister responsible for multiculturalism for his comprehensive report to the House last night. Canada gave us the opportunity to practice our faith in the manner we believe to be right, and we are thankful for the contribution we have been able to make in return. Since 1967 we have been re-creating a fitting memorial to commemorate our past; a replica of a Mennonite village, circa 1870s, is being built. One of Steinbach's first industries was a wind-driven grist mill. This mill attracted people from all over southeastern Manitoba. Today a replica of the first windmill stands on the same museum grounds.

On behalf of all the people of Provencher, I extend to members of this House and the constituents they represent a hearty welcome to come and visit us in 1974 when we particularly want to return thanks to God and our new country, Canada, for the freedoms and opportunities which were given to us.

**Mr. Judd Buchanan (London West):** Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues, I should like to congratulate you. I share the feeling often expressed over the last few days, that you have earned our respect and affection for the manner in which you have carried out your duties as the first commoner. This is not only true of your performance when presiding in this chamber; it is also true of the discharge of the many other obligations which fall upon you as Speaker. I should like to extend my comments to include Your Honour's wife, who has proven herself an extremely gracious and charming person in the performance of your many duties.

We have developed the same high regard for Mr. Deputy Speaker and we are certain that he, too, will bring honour to that post. I should also like to compliment my two colleagues who moved and seconded the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, the hon. member for Lachine (Mr. Blaker) and the hon. member for Nipissing (Mr. Blais). I envy these two hon. gentlemen the facility they possess in each of our official languages. They were fortunate to be raised in an environment where from childhood they were exposed to both languages. It is far more difficult for active and busy individuals such as Members of Parliament and civil servants to acquire ability in a second language later in life.

I share completely the thoughts expressed by the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette), the leader of the Creditiste party, in believing that the only way we will truly make significant headway in the area of two languages is to make available to all young Canadians, second language education starting the moment they begin school. I strongly support the programs of the Secretary of State (Mr. Faulkner) to provide assistance to provincial departments of education in developing this capacity for second language training in our school system throughout Canada.