

The Address—Mr. Collette

are going to say that in the next election, good luck to them. Productivity reflects not only worker attitudes. It also reflects lack of capital investment and poor management methods.

According to the OECD, Canada has created more new jobs in recent years than any of the world's industrialized nations. In not one year of the last ten have Canadians seen their standard of living fall. Even in 1975 when the U.S. GNP declined by 2 per cent, Canada's GNP actually increased by 1.1 per cent. This could possibly be called no growth, but no growth in a difficult period of time is preferable to a decline in the standard of living as we saw with our major trading partner, the United States.

Mr. Gillies: We have gone to tenth place.

Mr. Collette: I hear the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies) who will be following me. He is my next door neighbour. He will have adequate opportunity to say what he wants on the subject.

We must remember, Mr. Speaker, that the effects of the 1975 recession in Canada were cushioned by the phasing in of energy price increases, by our generous system of social benefits, the indexation of pensions, family allowances, and personal tax exemption rates.

It is my conclusion that Canada has not done as bad as our critics would have us believe. Sure we have to be careful. The growth in government expenditures must be in line with the general economic growth of the country. In fact more than \$3 billion has been shaved off the government's spending estimates over the past two years.

We must continue to restrict the growth in the public service so that it does not exceed the general growth in the population. In fact over the past year growth in the numbers of public servants has been held to 1 per cent less than the population increase.

We must be careful not to allow federal public service compensation to outpace compensation in the private sector. In fact over the past 20 years the complaint that the federal public service has been the pace-setter for wages is not entirely true since both the average provincial and municipal public sector salary increases outpaced federal public salaries, with the municipalities being most guilty. So, Mr. Speaker, let's get our economic facts into some perspective. Our economic performance, while not great, has been far from bad.

What of the future? Well, Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance. Our prospects are excellent. With the revaluation of the dollar, the export of manufactured goods should increase substantially. With the winding up of controls, business should feel more confidence to invest and broaden their entrepreneurial skills.

● (1542)

The building of the pipeline will create between 6,000 and 8,000 new jobs in the next few years. Pipeline materials will be made basically in Canada, for the Canadian portion of the line by Stelco in Hamilton, perhaps, and in Sault Ste. Marie near

[Mr. Collette.]

the hon. member's riding of Nickel Belt. In addition, nearly \$500 million a year will accrue to Canada through maintenance fees and royalties, thus bringing about a more favourable balance of payments position.

Major defence procurements of such items as the Aurora patrol plane and the new jet fighter, much of the work on which will be apportioned to Canadian companies, means an injection of between \$4 billion or \$5 billion into our economy over the next ten years, and no doubt there will be a further investment in plants such as Syncrude, perhaps through government in partnership with private industry.

Canadian technology in several fields has recently created business for Canadian companies. I am thinking, for example, of the Lear executive jet which is being built by Canadair and is giving work to the aviation industry, especially in Montreal. Then there is the joint venture between Canadian National Railways and a Spanish consortium to build a new railway in Venezuela, an enterprise which, by the way, will have the effect of recycling some of the oil money.

In the field of foreign aid, CIDA grants are being tied to the purchase of Canadian goods and services. Witness, as one example, our involvement with the construction of a railway in Zambia.

In short, Canada's future is bright and I believe we have much to look forward to. If there is any impediment to the economic recovery of this country it is not the government's management but the doom and gloom, the pessimistic attitude of the opposition.

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, I know I must keep my remarks short because the Minister of Employment (Mr. Cullen) has a plane to catch and he wants to gather every pearl of wisdom I have for him, so I must finish before he has to leave.

I do want to express my gratitude for the opportunity of having the Queen in our country during these past few days. I think the Canadian people appreciated very much seeing her and having the opportunity to hear her personally read the Speech from the Throne. I think it is too bad the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) did not see fit to give her a little more freedom of movement in this country; I know there are a lot of people in the west who would have loved to have her visit that part of Canada. I know the people of Surrey-White Rock would love to have had her come and visit us there.

Mr. Cullen: She will be in Edmonton next year.

Mr. Friesen: Yes, she will be in Edmonton next year. "During the campaign?" says the Postmaster General (Mr. Blais). I don't think the government will have the nerve to call an election even then. But we will welcome her back to our shores at that time.

It is too bad the Queen had to read such a vacuous statement as the Speech from the Throne. However, that document has already been sufficiently belaboured by hon. members and by the press, and I will leave it alone for now. But to have it followed up by the tedium of a two-hour speech, so-called, by