

Speech from the Throne

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity in the fourth session of the twenty-eighth Parliament of Canada to participate in the debate in Reply to The Speech from the Throne by congratulating the mover, the hon. member for Bruce (Mr. Whicher), and the seconder, the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Lajoie). They performed their task with distinction by appraising frankly the situation in our country and reminding us all of the aspirations, the concerns and the achievements of Canadians and their government under the leadership of our Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), who recognizes the changes in modern society and uses his talents and energy in persistently attacking our country's problems to provide a better life for all Canadians. The goal of a just society which he is striving to achieve is our deepest desire, and we wish him success.

The government's record in the first three sessions of this Parliament is an enviable one. I think that all Canadians should be proud of the reform legislation which Parliament has passed to improve the quality of life for all our citizens. I think we should also be proud of our country, rejoice in its great potentiality and be thankful for so many blessings. I agree with those who have stated before me in this House that there is no better country in which to live.

It is my privilege to represent in the House of Commons the people of the cosmopolitan constituency of Parkdale. It lies near the heart of the city of Toronto, on its southern borders, and I am proud of these hardworking, loyal citizens of various cultural backgrounds who through their industriousness are making a significant contribution to the development of Canada. Above all, they cherish the freedom and unlimited opportunities which Canada offers to all who are willing to work for self-improvement.

Many people in Parkdale are new Canadians. Having found freedom and opportunity here in Canada, they have a firm determination to preserve it. Consequently, they have understandable concern about people in other lands who do not share these blessings or who have lost them. At this point in Canada's history and development, the people of Parkdale, along with their fellow Canadians, are working together in that great national effort to develop further the good life in Canada, to promote the principles upon which our confederation is based and to help further develop Canadian identity and strengthen national unity.

The Speech from the Throne has outlined the federal government's philosophy and legislative program for the fourth session of this Parliament. I welcome the philosophical attitude and intentions of the federal government which were stated in the Speech from the Throne, especially in the following words:

Everyone of us is enriched through involvement in this stimulating process we call Canada. Our goals and hopes are bound up in the restlessness and vitality of this rich land. We in this place have a special responsibility to help bring these goals and those hopes within reach, to make real the Canada of which our forefathers dreamed: a land so large that some of its will remain always serene and unspoiled; a society which believes in the dignity of every single individual; a community which husbands its resources and shares them justly among this generation and those to follow; an enterprise which permits and provokes each Canadian to contribute his skills and his talents. There will be an opportunity in this session of this Parliament to pursue these ends.

[Mr. MacInnis.]

Mr. Speaker, I hope all of us in this House will give most serious consideration to the government's program and, above all, co-operation. I welcome the announcement in the Speech from the Throne of Heritage Canada, the proposed legislation which would set up a broadly-based corporation to preserve individual buildings and sites in areas of historical and natural value that are regarded as nationally significant. Heritage Canada will add a new dimension by involving individual Canadians who are becoming increasingly aware and interested in preserving their historical, architectural and natural heritage. Heritage Canada will be launched with the aid of a generous federal endowment grant to give it a start, and the private sector will have a major role to play in it. Specifically, its aim is to enable anyone anywhere in Canada interested in preserving our historical and natural heritage to play a part in discharging a national responsibility.

Our cultural heritage is a vital part of the quality of our life. We must not only preserve it but make it available to all Canadians. Lack of knowledge about the culture and history of the various groups that make up our population has had more to do with dividing us than any other single factor. Historic sites and monuments, historic parks and museums enrich the quality of Canadian life and strengthen the fibre of national unity. Such endeavours will teach us who we are. Communication and understanding are essential in a pluralistic society like Canada. We should do everything possible, therefore, to deepen that communication and understanding which I believe are essentially to greater appreciation of one another. This type of Canadianism is the foundation of the federal government's policy on multiculturalism so enthusiastically received by all the ethnic cultural groups in our country. I urge the government to allocate all the necessary resources to make these programs successful.

• (1740)

In the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, the federal government stressed the importance of economic security as one of the most effective forces with which to counter social isolation. It stated that more job opportunities must be found and income uncertainties overcome if all Canadians are to share the richness of this land. We welcome the government's statement that the attainment of such an economy and increased employment has a very high priority in its programs.

At this time I should like to emphasize to all hon. members that the Employment Support Board Act which was passed in this House last September, in the last three months of 1971 saved approximately 7,700 jobs; the Opportunities for Youth program last summer provided 30,000 jobs and the Local Initiatives Program, initiated a few months ago, has already created 90,000 new jobs. This means that real and effective steps have been taken to find jobs for our rapidly expanding labour force which encompasses Canadians from age 14 to 70.

I agree with the government that our economy is dependent, as are the economies of other countries—especially those that are highly industrialized—on research innovation. We welcome the remarks of the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Gillespie) a few days ago when he outlined for us the government's program to improve research facilities in our industries.