

understand, for instance, the complexities of the accounting of multinational companies, windfall profits, spiralling food costs, etc. They want representatives who can protect their rights as human beings, consumers and Canadians; representatives who will truly contribute to the drafting and development of the pieces of legislation and administrative measures listed in the speech from the throne for our second session of Parliament.

[*English*]

As I now talk of the thrust of the Speech from the Throne, I ask myself what kind of Canada Canadians want in 1974; what kind of society do we want for our children; how will we achieve this; how will that vertical mosaic stretching from Cape Spear to Mount Elias, a distance of about 3,200 miles, ever help the west and the east re-unite? If this Speech from the Throne seems so important to me it is because of its concerns and effort in offering numerous concrete ways to achieve Canadian unity and reciprocal understanding between all parts of the country. It does so mainly through two approaches. The first is through erasing as much as possible inequalities, such as regional disparities, unequal distribution of natural and financial resources, discrimination based on sex as well as those injustices based on other prejudices. The second is through inviting all Canadians to participate in common enterprises in the making of our country, and in a Canadian identity, such as the development of a national petroleum company, an optimum over-all land use, and the exploitation of the living resources of our fresh waters and seas. In so doing, this government is showing its continuous understanding of what Canadians want. For, Mr. Speaker, Canadian unity cannot be achieved without Canadian identity, and economic growth will not mean a thing to us if it is achieved outside of a frame of social justice.

[*Translation*]

We have heard all kinds of remarks to the effect that this Liberal government has changed direction. Some people have written that we have gone back to an old-fashioned form of confederalism, others that we have set great principles aside to deal with trifles. It is obviously fashionable to say that the New Democrats are governing this country and not us. To say the truth, and with no ill-feelings towards that party, I would be at a loss to define what is a New Democrat. I think that in Mackenzie King's times, the only known definition was simply to consider them, and I quote, as "Liberals in a hurry".

In fact, seldom has a government been so realistic while following such an absolutely consistent policy, despite the sudden burst of a national crisis: domestic inflationary trends brought about by international uncontrollable situations, and, during 16 months, a genuine minority government.

This government has first dealt in the past decade, with the most critical problem that was bearing heavily on the social conscience of Canadians and I refer to the situation opposing the two founding groups of this country, and concerning their respective rights and status, and their equality of opportunities in taking part in the decision-making process of the whole of our Canadian society.

There was, therefore, need to draft and pass without delay the Official Languages Act of 1969. This legislative

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tool was the most essential basis for any further social measures. Sixteen million English-speaking and six million French-speaking people. Each and every Canadian, especially those who did not know the other official language, had to be guaranteed their rights to their own language.

It was not easy! One need only have witnessed the insults, the exchanges loaded with emotional overtones in the House of Commons during our recent debates reaffirming our policy, in May and June last, and even this afternoon, never to forget them. It was not easy and we still have a long way to go.

No legislation will ever do away with prejudiced attitudes or mentalities. Time only and daily efforts—personal and collective—will enable us in the next few decades to evaluate the progress made and the soundness of that historic initiative. To that initiative, we have added another: the policy of "multiculturalism in a bilingual structure", which was promulgated two and one half years ago.

● (1720)

I was struck, when I had the honour and the responsibility of spending three months with the UN as the Canadian delegate, by the erroneous picture one generally has of our country. I often had to explain that my country was made up of "three thirds": the French, the English, and those who from Germany, Italy, Ukraine, Holland, Poland, Greece, China, Portugal, Scandinavia and elsewhere came to settle in our land, and whose value we appreciate as much as they appreciate what they found in Canada.

The first budget assigned specifically to multiculturalism amounted to \$10 million, in addition to the \$2 million allotted in January 1972, provided for the distribution of subsidies, about 600 of them, totalling \$2.5 million. After a careful study of the description of the recipient projects, it seems clear to me that we are still in the preliminary stages in the formulation of the principles which should guide the application of that program, the nature of which could either sow division, or encourage mutual understanding and tolerance. In that case as well, there was a risk, while specialists are confirming that a world movement towards a strong "linguistic nationalism" and a multiplying of languages in use is being observed, which leads isolated groups to retire even more within themselves.

The last Speech from the Throne of January 4, 1973 complied with its commitments despite the suggestions of the previous speaker, the hon. member for Lambton-Kent (Mr. Holmes). Anyone who reads it carefully and compares every item of it with today's reality can but be struck by the numerous and good measures that were taken subsequently. However, I would dare to suggest that in two areas, the legislation that was passed by this House appeared too weak although successful to me—that is, first of all, the balanced maintenance at a high level of incomes, production and employment, and next, the overall initiatives and measures designed to meet the Canadians' wish to control and protect their economy and their resources through direct participation—have become the very basis of the measures put forward in the present Speech from the Throne.