

funds could be more properly used for the development and improvement of the quality of life, while at the same time allowing those burdened with the stigma and humiliation of welfare to be redeployed creatively. As I have said, the average person who has been forced by circumstance to accept welfare is begging for a place in the sun. He wants a chance to work so that he can stand tall, walk straight and again earn the admiration of his family, wife and friends. I am sure the average fellow on welfare does not want to feel that he is a parasite, or that he is living off the fat of the land. All he wants is a chance. It is up to us to amend the Canada Assistance Plan so that these people can be given a chance to work for a decent wage. They do not want to work for welfare—I make this distinction—they want to work for decent wages and regain that which they have almost lost, their self respect.

I shall conclude, sir, by making some brief remarks about the problems of some other very important people in our society who seem to have been given the other end of the stick. I am referring to our senior citizens. Most of us who have had occasion to talk to these people recognize that financial problems are their biggest worry. The biggest worry of our senior citizens is not old age; it is poverty. These people have given the best part of their lives to their country, and I contend that they deserve something better than they now have. Surely we as a society are under an obligation to see that our senior citizens do not suffer and are not humiliated in later years as a result of money problems.

In Newfoundland there is also great concern among those who have reached middle-age and upper middle-age. There is a need across this country—this applies particularly to Newfoundland where a very high proportion of these people are unskilled—for more initiative in manpower retraining programs. A frequent complaint of many Newfoundlanders who are middle-aged is that they are completely left out of the labour market because of their age and lack of training. Yet these people still have the responsibility, in many cases, of raising a young family. No level of government has ever seriously studied this problem or taken concrete action to solve it.

[Translation]

**Mr. Aurélien Noël (Outremont):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to take this opportunity during the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne to make a few remarks that I find appropriate.

First of all, I should like to join with my colleagues to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, the hon. member for Bourassa (Mr. Trudel) and the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) as well as the new Deputy Chairman of Committees of the Whole House, the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Laniel).

Almost four months ago, on June 29, 1970, the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) delivered to the Canadian nation the following message on the 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Canadian Confederation:

The day we are celebrating, July 1, offers the opportunity to reflect together on the Canadian reality and recall its singularly favourable character.

Thanks to the immensity of its territory, the abundance of its resources, the stability of its democratic institutions, its at-

mosphere of liberty, the good will and tolerance of its citizens, Canada is one of the most privileged countries of the world.

We certainly have problems to solve. Various pressures interfere here and there with our good luck. There is still too much distrust and resistance between the two main linguistic communities of the country; there is too wide a gap between those who own more and those who own less; divergent interests between the various parts of Canada tend to create isolated areas; and a frequent lack of understanding between the older and the younger generation is prejudicial to a good and fruitful friendship.

Very fortunately our problems are not as big and as serious as the conflicts which are afflicting and tearing apart many countries. They are nevertheless real problems and we cannot ignore them. On the contrary, we must do everything to smooth them and to settle them, because they give us an opportunity to transcend ourselves.

In tackling and overcoming them, we have an opportunity to build a society where fraternity will have replaced distrust, where justice will have conquered poverty, where altruism will have won over the egocentrism of areas and where mutual understanding will have brought generations together.

In a world always under the threat of injustice and revenge, hostilities and wars, Canada certainly has an exciting task. If indeed it succeeds in reconciling the oppositions that are pulling it apart, it will have shown that men, however different they may be, can, when it is their wish, live as equals and brothers.

We live in a country of unlimited hopes, where the variety of languages, cultures and minds offer us the possibility of rare enhancement. Let us be proud of it. And all together, with determination and enthusiasm, let us work without respite for the unity and the advancement of Canada.

• (5:40 p.m.)

These words express a fervent and sincere wish oft repeated by the Prime Minister. His government has indeed resolutely set itself to work since 1968 in order to assure a better administration, to strengthen the bonds of Canadian unity, to stabilize the Canadian economy, to improve the individual's status before the law and in his relations with his fellow citizens, in matters of unemployment and job security, in matters of housing and others dealing with environment, etc. Many studies have been carried out and others are under way in order to find ways to improve human conditions.

Unfortunately, problems over the past two years have developed too quickly and have been too complicated considering the time we have had to examine and solve them. Furthermore, we are the neighbours of a great country which, unwillingly, adds its own problems to ours.

The Speech from the Throne and the long list of bills tabled by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) point out the means by which a more just society can soon be achieved.

The tragic events of the last few days have thrown Canada into an unfortunate and unforeseen situation, used as we were to live in a country where attacks on democratic principles were not taken seriously. For a rather long time there had been dark clouds above the horizon, but it is mostly since 1963 that the storm had been gathering in the distance. The ones who shouted beware were considered as prophets of doom. Incendiary slogans replaced the ambitious guidelines of the quiet revolution. Veiled incitement to a change in our political system soon gave way to unruly demonstrations. "Mein Kampf" of all sorts are published and the true aims of their authors are printed in black and white. At the same