

The Government has had almost four years in which to prepare for this Speech from the Throne. There should be more to our future economic strategy than potential sales, potential markets and potential jobs. We do not need the additional task forces planned, we do not need any more conferences such as the Canada Tomorrow extravaganza which the Minister for Science and Technology (Mr. Johnston) hosted last fall, which spent \$500,000 but almost ignored the key issues of worker displacement and what may happen to women's employment. What we do need is to make that potential a reality now. What we need is leadership and decision making now. We are already lagging further and further behind our competitors thanks to the failures of this Government. We should not miss the boat altogether.

It is one thing to have what the Throne Speech calls an "aggressive trade drive", something I welcome and endorse wholeheartedly. It is something we should have had years ago. After all, we have known of our weakness in foreign markets long enough, especially in the Pacific rim. But if we do not have products to sell and people to design and make them, then the most aggressive trade drive in the world will be stalled in neutral.

Tourism, however, is a product we do have to sell and one, thanks to the federal Government, we have been selling rather poorly for years. In 1972 we had 4.9 per cent of the international tourism market. Today, our share is only 2.7 per cent. In 1972 Canadians spent \$260 million more outside Canada on tourism than foreigners spent here. This year that deficit is expected to reach \$2 billion. Were that \$2 billion to be spent here, it would mean over 100,000 more jobs and an extra \$1 billion in revenue for government. So I heartily applaud the Throne Speech's six-line acknowledgement that this \$16.5 billion a year industry, which employs over 10 per cent of the paid labour force, does in fact exist. Let us hope that the national tourism strategy will work and will create more jobs. Let us not simply look to the industry, as the Government did in the last budget when it increased excise taxes, as a source of instant revenue. Let us hope this time the Government will see tourism as one of the essential cornerstones, as it is, of our future prosperity, and, for once, live up to its word and give the support it has promised.

That, of course, is a problem we have had with every Throne Speech, every budget, every election platform and promise that comes from this Government. The Liberals simply do not do what they said they would do.

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A little more than a year ago in his television mini-series the Prime Minister appealed for trust. The Speech from the Throne is another appeal for trust. I ask how we can have trust. We do not have to go back to the promises of a Just Society, wage and price controls and 18 cents a gallon gasoline increases to know we can trust neither him nor the Ministers who serve in his Cabinet. This speech alone is sufficient proof. There is the \$500 million to establish programs financing passed off as new funding. There is the recognition that small

business entrepreneurs are the unsung heroes of our recovery when it was the high interest rates of the Government that caused 40,000 small businesses to go bankrupt last year and sent us spinning into a recession. There is the boast of 353,000 new jobs created since last December, of which only 237,000 are full-time while 396,000 unemployed Canadians no longer receive benefits and 537,000 young Canadian men and women are still without work.

The Government has created some opportunities for some Canadians to be sure. The Auditor General's Report has a list of them. If you can purchase a \$315,000 motel for \$200, I would certainly call that an opportunity. If you can get \$800 a day plus expenses for investigating the economic miasma which the policies of the Minister of Finance helped create, I would certainly call that an opportunity. However, the \$800 a day royal commission opportunities and the \$200 million budget photo opportunities from the last Minister of Finance are not getting the almost 1.5 million unemployed Canadians back to work, nor are they creating the world class competitive industries which will bring the real employment opportunities of the future.

The promises and directions contained in the Speech from the Throne cannot and do not stand alone. Behind them lie four years of actual performance; a performance which is nothing short of ruinous. They have failed. The Government is no longer credible. The Speech from the Throne asks not for belief but the suspension of belief. One more time the Government asks us to trust it one more time, to trust in its ability to somehow muddle us out of the mess it has muddled us into in the first place. That is the single question the whole speech asks, Mr. Speaker. The answer is quite short—not any more.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Period of ten minutes allowed for questions or comments. Debate.

[English]

Mr. Bill Wright (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to join in this debate on the Speech from the Throne. I would like first to offer my congratulations to you and your colleagues for your promotion to the chair.

It has been almost four years since we had the last Speech from the Throne. During that four years many things have happened to the economy of this country. There is not one region or one section of the economy which has not been hurt by the actions of the Government.

I would like to look at some of the things that have been done by this Government. The output in Canada has declined by 6.5 per cent. The unemployment rate has been as high as 12.8 per cent. Interest rates have been as high as 22 per cent. Inflation has been as high as 12.9 per cent. Productivity has declined by 4.2 per cent since 1979. The net debt in Canada has doubled in only four years. A record of almost 11,000 businesses declared bankruptcy in 1982 alone. The dollar has declined from 84 cents in April, 1980 to 80 cents today, and has been as low as 76.8 cents. There has been a net outflow of \$16.7 billion in direct investment capital since the last Throne