

*The Address—Mr. O'Kurley*

I might also suggest that we should also review those laws with the consideration for the educational needs of students in our riding, students like those from the New Sarepta High School who are visiting the nation's capital today from the riding of Elk Island.

There will be further privatization of those Crown corporations which no longer serve a public policy role. Perhaps most important is that we will see a major emphasis on upgrading the skills of Canadians, a human resource strategy for the 1990s. That will entail investing in literacy programs, education, training and retraining. Our goal is to turn our social safety net into a trampoline by redirecting more of our resources into skills training so we can help people get a new or better job rather than just pay people not to work.

Continuing deficit reduction so that inflation and interest rates can fall, sales tax reform, a focus on multilateral trade negotiations, investments in new technologies, continuing our grass roots approach to regional development, modernizing our business laws, further privatization and a human resource strategy for the 1990s, are all actions that will help build a stronger, competitive and modern economy, a stronger economy that will produce the jobs and wealth we need to maintain our way of life.

• (1610)

The second objective is that of protecting the environment. During the past year, it has become clear that the world is facing an environmental challenge of unprecedented magnitude. This problem is becoming more and more serious.

Within the past week a major chemical spill occurred near my old home Town of Lamont. Incidents like this are becoming more common. There is no time to sit around blaming one another. It is time for action. Our goal is to develop policies that reflect the concept of sustainable development where economic policies are not divorced from their environmental impact.

We are going to see the creation of a centre for the international promotion of sustainable development in Winnipeg. You will be hearing more about the round table on the environment and the economy which is being chaired by the President of McGill University.

The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bouchard) has been given new responsibilities to ensure that environ-

mental issues are fully considered in the course of government decision making.

There will be new regulations to limit the impact of toxic chemicals, actions to protect the arctic environment, new legislation to improve water quality, legislation to ensure an appropriate environmental assessment review process, negotiations, both with the U.S. and globally, measures to improve the quality of the atmosphere, initiatives to clean up the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River and, together with the provinces, action to clean up dangerous land sites.

However, environmental protection is not just the job of Governments. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us. That is why we plan to encourage individual Canadians to become more aware of the environment, the establishment of an environmental partners fund, the promotion of environmentally friendly products, and programs to encourage recycling.

Environmental protection is not just about minimizing damaged land. It is also about economic opportunities. We are going to encourage the expansion of Canada's environmental industry and promote research and development not just to find solutions to our own environmental problems, but to create export opportunities for equipment, knowledge and environmentally friendly products.

A concentrated government effort to protect our environment, increased public participation and the encouragement of the expansion of Canada's environmental industry are three elements of a comprehensive approach to protect our environment.

Another objective is a caring and compassionate society. Canadians have always placed a premium on tolerance and fairness. We care about the quality of life in this country for all our citizens, and we have always recognized our obligation to help the less fortunate, both at home and abroad. The Mulroney Government shares these values.

Ironically that is why deficit reduction is so important to ensure our ability to maintain quality social programs in the years ahead. That is why, despite our financial problems, we will continue to provide assistance to families and the elderly while directing greater assistance toward those with low incomes.