

*The Address—Mr. F. Roy*

to pay for the erosion of the liberties that characterize our society.

I strongly urge this government to reflect on this question—it is easy for them. They only have to read over the speeches of their former leader, that great advocate of liberties, the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker. And with respect to relations between provinces, regions or with the various groups in this country, we would have expected to see new measures. After the aggressivity and the confrontation of the former Liberal government we get silence. We need a clear statement of the manifest intention to stand by the rights and liberties of people, groups, cultures so as to eliminate in this country politicians who live on our national and cultural, economic and social differences, those merchants of equality who are only sowers of economic ruins, budget and trade deficits and bureaucratic controls.

I am concerned about the silence in the speech in this respect. I hope this is not an indication on the part of the government that it has managed to appropriate too, after others, the theme of some “national unity” as a palliative to the real problems, a cure-all to incompetence, as a way of getting power, with only the forms being different. In the scientific and technical area, we would have also expected a specific statement indicating what percentage of the GNP would go to research and development. But again, nothing on this subject. There should be a desire to capitalize on our specific assets, a concern to develop and to further the knowledge and the technology in areas where we have a natural advantage stemming from the very nature of our country, its size and its resources, program aimed at making us world leaders in the following areas: transport and communications, petrochemistry, forestry biomass, oceans and fisheries, food industry, mining technology, electro-metallurgy and electro-chemistry.

Mr. Speaker, I realize, to my great surprise, that I am a citizen of the second largest country in the world, with the biggest per capita reservoir of natural, agricultural and marine resources in the world, and that the major leaders of this country are either politicians without any vision or impostors trumpeting that ever foggy notion of “national unity”. I have to admit that this narrow vision has now touched upon the domain of external affairs, which was not the case before, and I compliment the previous government for this. I am forced to admit that our foreign policy in regions as important as the Middle East is determined by electoral considerations. We are about to discard thirty years of patient diplomatic work in these countries. I am forced to see and to deplore that the aid we will be providing to poorer countries will be based on criteria of profitability. Mr. Speaker, one can measure the greatness of a man or a nation by its attitude toward the poor and the weak. The recent policy statements made by the present government are a sad thing. We are going backwards.

[Mr. Roy (Beauce).]

Smallness is becoming a virtue in the second largest country in the world.

Before ending my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a word on the amendment motion submitted by the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent). We have made known and repeated our position on this precise point. We have even made public, on September 9, the document in which it is clearly explained. We said, and I am referring to the news release, the official document of our party, dated September 6, that Petro-Canada would have played its role in the negotiations with the producing countries if it had become necessary. It was our position at the time. We will not discuss it again. But I would like to add that before doing anything with Petro-Canada, the new government will have to give us a complete statement on its energy policy. On this subject, after extensive discussion and consideration, the members of my party have adopted this attitude which we do not intend to change. Before anything is done with Petro-Canada, we will have to know in precise terms the energy policy of the present government.

Mr. Speaker, it is not too late to make a wise decision and to develop the means. I am almost finished, Mr. Speaker, if I may ask for one more minute—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The easiest way would probably be to obtain unanimous consent; I am sure that hon. members will allow the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Roy) to finish his remarks.

Will the House allow the hon. member to complete his remarks?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for Beauce has the floor.

**Mr. Roy (Beauce):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be brief and that is no electoral promise.

Mr. Speaker, it is never too late to take good decisions and to formulate efficient and drastic measures. It is very important to take up the future's challenge and that is why, in concluding my first speech in the House, I call on parliamentarians of all parties, and particularly on those who bear the responsibility of governing the country, to act with statesmanship. Mr. Speaker, you can count on my collaboration and on that of my colleagues of the Social Credit party. We are determined to fight and to work towards the achievement of a political ideal which will enable all the inhabitants of this great country to benefit from an economy of abundance in the greatest respect of their dignity and freedom.