

*The Address—Mr. Trudeau*

**Mr. Lundrigan:** That is correct.

**Mr. Trudeau:** He may escape that fate, but I cannot guarantee that he will not become a wreck if he stays where he is. I believe strongly that no country is better able to adapt to the present and to the future than is Canada, for no country is more fortunate in its basic attributes.

*[Translation]*

Space on a continental scale; a population which commands immense and near-empty territories, and to which is still unknown the almost universal anguish of overcrowding; natural resources so vast that their inventory is constantly swelling; an enormous economic potential; a very high standard of living; an invaluable asset linked to ethnic diversity and cultural pluralism; two official languages corresponding to two principal mentalities which are among the supreme expressions of western civilization; as the principal of national identity—federalism, the most evolved of political forms; a democratic regime guaranteed by a parliamentary system closely derived from a most admirable model; and peace and freedom. Because of all these goods, because of all these blessings, Canada stands as one of the most happy and enviable facts of the times. Because of all this, our country can be looked upon as a global environment, as an environment exceptionally favourable to the fullness of human development.

This has often been said. Nevertheless it is all the more reasonable to repeat it as too many among us are prone to consider such utterances as a litany of commonplaces unworthy of one's attention. On this solemn occasion, may all Canadians be incited to a renewed awareness of the riches and privileges by the virtue of which they have become such a fortunate people, and which constitute the living scene and the vital implements of their destiny. From either a collective or an individual point of view, no awareness of this kind can be decisive or final. In that connection, we must then have the courage and even the heroism to repeat ourselves. For our commitment to our country is the very style of our commitment to life. Let us all understand that Canada is not made up of a complaisant mass of data, but, rather, results from a priceless and demanding combination of providential gifts.

If Canada is a privileged fact, never has our country recognized itself as an accomplished fact. Knowledge of our national deficiencies and the obvious difficulties of the times protect us against such a dangerous illusion.

We are too young a nation and too enterprising a people to fall into the illusion of final accomplishment. Besides, our history, our very short history tells us that ever since its adventurous beginnings our country is in constant and rapid evolution. And today, vast regions of the Canadian territory are going through an accelerated humanization process, are beginning to acquire a political structure and are preparing themselves for a full identification with the national entity. Canada is in a continuous process of invention and it is as a steady and permanent enterprise that it must be understood.

*[Mr. Trudeau.]*

The foundations and the elements of our country, and its prospects confer to the Canadian project a quality that is extremely stimulating and exciting. In accordance with the contemporary tendency to participation and collective action, all our fellow citizens should espouse eagerly the Canadian design, and get involved as fully as possible in its formulation and in its realization. This can be accomplished through the constant exercise of their right to criticize and demand through the free expression of their feelings and of their thinking to the legislators. A country is truly meaningful if it is the joint undertaking of the legislator and the citizen. Only then does a country become a fatherland.

*[English]*

To be vigorous and forward-looking is not enough to guarantee our future, however. We will be called upon to look upon it with imagination, to approach it with spirit, to plan for it with boldness. Daily problems will always be with us, but the government is not permitted the false luxury of concentrating only on the moment at hand. That opportunity, as was shown this morning, belongs to the Opposition. Governments must deal as best they can with current difficulties; they must discharge as well the responsibility of preparing for the future. This government accepts that responsibility. We shall continue to lay before Parliament the product of our planning. We seek a future over which Canadians will exercise some control, not a series of events by happenstance. Canadians have demonstrated in the past their disenchantment with governments which careened with uncertainty from one crisis to the next.

**Mr. Woolliams:** They cannot even get a crisis going in this government.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Exciting as that erraticism might seem to those who are stimulated by the froth and foam of uncertainty, it is not the choice of Canadians. We are called upon to work toward a secure and independent Canada within a peaceful world; a Canada in which social justice and economic growth are norms which apply to the lives of men and women in all parts of this country; a Canada situated within a harmonious natural environment; a Canada in which all Canadians take pride because of the opportunities available to them to participate in its governance and to contribute to its unity. That kind of Canada, that kind of future, we believe in, Mr. Speaker, and we believe the Canadian people find it truly exciting.

The program of this government, Mr. Speaker, is designed to contribute to that kind of Canada. It is a program which is operative in all sectors of Canadian life—political, economic, social and cultural. Through a combination of white papers, of legislation, and of administrative acts, we are seeking to deal with the problems of the present at the same time that we anticipate and minimize those of the future. A good number of those activities have been revealed in the Speech from the Throne, others are contained in the list of legislation which has been tabled in this House. A few examples will reveal the breadth and the depth of our concern:

To improve and strengthen the climate of liberty and the tradition of a fair and just administration of the laws