

*The Address—Mr. J. P. Guay*

Mr. Speaker, before addressing myself to the Speech from the Throne, I should like first of all to congratulate those who spoke before me. I enjoyed the speeches delivered by the mover (Mr. Stollery) and the seconder (Mr. Pelletier (Sherbrooke)). Needless to say, I also appreciated the comments of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), and I listened carefully to the remarks made by the other leaders.

Having spent some time in my constituency, I am coming back to the House convinced that the Canadian people expect us to keep on discharging our duty, to pass measures to their benefit.

There surely exists a credibility crisis that we must solve through debates and serious work. As for me, Mr. Speaker, I am determined to work steadily so that we may make good headway.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, my I begin by addressing myself to the problems and aspirations of western Canadians. Never before has so much been written and said about the west. At last eastern Canadians, so-called, are beginning to realize that there exists in the prairie provinces and on the west coast a large body of Canadians who share a different perspective of Canada if only because theirs is a young region, one with a great deal of potential. But it is precisely this potential that concerns western Canadians, because they are concerned about the uses that will be made of their human and natural resources.

Let me say here, Mr. Speaker—and I wish to speak very clearly—that there is no cause for separatism in the west. I for one do not like talk about western separatism. Let me say bluntly that the term does not apply to us. Western Canadians are Canadians first. They want to be Canadians first. Indeed, it is foolish to say even that western Canadians are alienated from the rest of Canada. I believe, instead, that the rest of Canada is alienated from western Canada. Let me go further and say that I believe certain parts of Canada are alienated from the rest of the country. It is true that we who are from western Canada feel that what is commonly referred to as central or eastern Canada is alienated from the rest of Canada.

You know as well as I do, Mr. Speaker, that beliefs are realities and that if, indeed, western Canadians feel the Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto axis is the one which has discriminated against western Canada and, indeed, against the maritimes and our far north, there must be some truth to it.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** There must be some foundation for that belief, but I do not believe the fault lies with us. The fault clearly lies with those who have persisted in the belief that all good in Canada comes from the great centres of population. The fault lies with those who cannot, and will not, see beyond the boundaries of their own world. The fault lies with those who are not prepared to move forward, seeking out new paths and new objectives for Canada.

Let me assure the House that western Canadians want their fellow countrymen to realize that their region holds great potential for development. Now is the time for us to

[Mr. Guay (St. Boniface).]

tell young Canadians that they should go west. Now is the time for us to provide the opportunity for young Canadians who want to participate in the expansion and growth of western Canada. Yes, there have been significant developments in the last five years. This government has taken significant steps to increase federal decentralization in favour of western Canada. I welcome decentralization policies as they apply to regional economic expansion and similar programs, but that is only a beginning. Do not believe for one minute that western Canadians can be appeased or that they will be satisfied with a few hand-outs. That is not our objective. Nor, may I add, are we merely interested in obtaining some grants and favourable programs to fatten ourselves and to line our pockets. Those who would say that do not understand the profound feelings that exist in western Canada.

**An hon. Member:** That's not what your government says.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** You are one of those individuals. It is very obvious that even after the years of experience acquired by the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), he does not understand western Canadians; that is indicated by what he just said a few minutes ago.

**An hon. Member:** How about mushrooms?

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** I will talk to you in a moment if you keep on interrupting. Western Canadians want all other Canadians to understand that Canada's future must lie outside the concentration of wealth, resources and population centres which have until now preoccupied us. We want Canadians to strike out into new avenues, to open up new centres, to expand and benefit from the tremendous wealth of other regions.

**An hon. Member:** Tell that to your Prime Minister.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** We want Canadians to accept the principle that the expansion of Canada into new ventures must not proceed on the basis of per capita grants or subsidies. What we want is a new departure, a new national policy which will go beyond immediate cost-benefit principles. If our predecessors had limited themselves to expenditures based on narrow bookkeeping principles, there would not have been significant development of the far-flung regions of Canada.

What we must do is open up our potential by striking out boldly. For example, it is time we proceeded with vigor in the construction of a second trans-Canada highway right across our north. This is especially crucial to us in western Canada. It would lead to important investments in the northern area of Canada and create jobs for our young people, helping them by giving them the opportunity to live in the far north and to enjoy that part of our country.

● (2150)

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker,** one of the major frustrations existing in Western Canada is to realize the opportunities that we are offered and especially to know that we do not have the