

correct the awful problem of skills shortages. An employer warranty program for community college graduates is now on the drawing board in my home province. It is really a simple idea in that those same colleges guarantee skills and training for technology-related jobs. If the employer is dissatisfied, the college takes the worker back for retraining.

As Mr. MacEachern said in a recent *Globe and Mail* interview of, I believe, February 3, 1994, education has "to start with an analysis of what it's doing — and demonstrate that it's done it."

I believe that most people would agree that it is in our educational institutions where the future will be shaped and moulded. Our young people are, indeed, the stars in our constellation. It is they who will sketch out the future. We must give full scope to their talents and to their potential. As public figures, we must give them hope. We must communicate the message because, as the Prime Minister has so well understood, we cannot make the national effort needed to win the future without the fullest commitment of all Canadians who are strong in their conviction that we can do this.

•(1510)

Yet in the Canada of 1994, we see so much demoralization around us, a demoralization which I believe is cloaked in indifference. Too many of us have lost heart. Too many of us say, "Why, Canada? What is in it for me?" I believe the time has come to look back, to think back, to revive our collective memory, to reflect upon our ancestors, upon those who understood that to grasp the diversity of Canada, piece by piece, one had to challenge every mountain, every forest, every river.

Our ancestors sought peace, they sought prosperity and, above all, they sought freedom. Purposefully, and with great determination, they created something new. They built the country with responsible foundations and endowed it with a radical heart.

Today, if you look around, you will see the marauding forces of intolerance that are so clearly evident right across the planet. We must remember that these forces are unleashed in free societies when the citizens say, too often and too easily, "What's in it for me?"

As a new world evolves around us, honourable senators, we will be asked as Canadians to reject indifference and embrace commitment. We will be asked to reject old certitudes and embrace adventure. We will be asked many times to be late for dinner in the service of the future, as we have been many times in the service of the past.

Finally, honourable senators, I want to say something very briefly about our work here. If this chamber is to continue in its present form, we must be convinced, and we must convince Canadians, that this special place, this institution, has an important and useful role to play in the day-to-day workings of Parliament and of our country. Today we must take up the path of the Raoul Dandurands, the Arthur Meighens, the John Connollys — of the great Canadians of the past who sat here, who preceded

us, who made it their business to communicate the message about the very worthwhile functions of this place, and about the men and the women who worked so hard in its service.

As I said earlier, we gather in a new Parliament when the national effort must be unprecedented. The sacrifices we must all make will be of great magnitude. All of us know that the path will not be easy, and that conventional wisdom no longer serves us very well. The times are uncertain; they are perilous, but the change will come, and the world will be different.

In the declining years of this twentieth century, there are many analysts who are predicting a renewal of spiritual life and the idea of communion with others for the sake of the common good of all the citizens on our planet. In fact, I believe the uncertainties of the present have led most of us to start concentrating more on the permanent things in life. Some of you may recall that the early Christians asked Paul for answers to some of these perennial questions, and I am not sure the meaning of this is any different today. Paul did not speak of material things. He said the permanent things are the things that you cannot see. Of course he meant things like truth and compassion and justice, and maybe even love. We must all remember this because, as the world changes, as our young people change the world, such invisible components will be indispensable to them in the future. Honourable senators, these, indeed, are the permanent things.

Hon. David Tkachuk: This being my maiden speech, and my first speech arising from the Throne Speech, I find myself with unexpected freedom and the inclination to say too much, forgetting as I wrote this that, God willing, I have 26 years to say what I have to say.

I would first like to congratulate our new Speaker, the Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, on his appointment. I am sure he will guide this place with the same skill he brought to the other place when, as a minister, he re-established the Department of Fisheries and Oceans as a full department, and established a 200-mile limit on our fishery zone in 1977.

I want to extend the warmest wishes for success to the Honourable Senator Fairbairn, someone from my region who is involved in the cause of literacy, a cause I share with her. I became involved in the committee to promote literacy in Saskatchewan because of my good friend Senator Berntson who, with his wife Joan, founded the organization in our province. They have been responsible for raising over \$300,000 dollars in the last four years, and founded and designed the awards of merit awarded each year in our province to those who have distinguished themselves as learners and professionals and volunteers. I know Senator Berntson and our new Leader of the Opposition, Senator John Lynch-Staunton, will prove to be extraordinary in their new leadership role, and I wish them well.

I have been involved in the political process in this country all of my adult life. I have canvassed for my party from Prince Edward Island to Vancouver Island. My appointment to the Senate was to me a great honour. As a second generation Ukrainian Canadian, the Tkachuk and Berezowski clans