

The Address—Mr. de Corneille

disappointment that this opportunity to have provided the Canadian people with an understanding of the real issues was lost. I suggest to my hon. colleague that those are the major world issues. I am simply asking what was mentioned about it, what kind of programs were put forward and what kind of attention was given to these world issues which concern Canada as a nation, which holds a strategic continental position and to which the Third World looks with such hope and longing. What kind of example was this country being given? What kind of hope were we being given that we could have and could play a role in terms of saving our ecology and that of the rest of the world? What about the issue of human suffering throughout the world? What about the issues of nuclear arms and disarmament in general?

● (1420)

To answer my colleague, I was not proposing the answers. It is up to the Government, which asked for a mandate from the people, to put forward its program to us. I look forward to seeing what that will be. I hope it will be more concrete than this Throne Speech.

[Translation]

Mrs. Mailly: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my hon. friend from Eglinton-Lawrence whether he thinks the statement made this afternoon by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) is also what he refers to as "mood setting". And the aid Canada is going to give Ethiopia, is that "mood setting", and nothing else, on the part of this Government?

I also like to ask him whether increasing veterans' allowances is "mood setting".

[English]

Is the bridging pension for widows and widowers also only mood setting by the Government? Are the \$1 billion for job creation and the additional millions of dollars for Canada Works projects for this winter also mood setting? Are the 34,000 jobs which have been created since September also mood setting by the Government? Is the appointment of Stephen Lewis as ambassador to the United Nations mood setting? It is mood setting of the kind that the Liberal Government never had the courage to do. The appointment of the Hon. Doug Roche as ambassador for disarmament is also mood setting of a kind which the Liberal Government never had the courage to do. I could go on and on. Would the Hon. Member please tell me whether all of these things were only simple mood setting?

Mr. de Corneille: Mr. Speaker, obviously the Hon. Member is new to the House and to the affairs of the nation. Otherwise she would know that disarmament ambassadors have existed before. She would also know that many of the measures that she is talking about are simply the refurbishing and shuffling around of figures.

When one wants to find out what is being done in terms of the employment situation in the country, one need only look at

the 50,000 jobs that the Government actually eliminated when it finally got around to making its announcements. It was unwilling to explain to the House what the implications would be.

I think the Hon. Member should remember that there are all kinds of examples which one could have talked about. I am certainly happy to see that something was announced with regard to what would be done about the veterans. I look forward to seeing just precisely what that is, because I was the Parliamentary Secretary for Veterans Affairs and watched step after step of positive legislation which was introduced in the House, partly through the efforts and encouragement of the Hon. Stanley Knowles who was then a Member of this House. He encouraged the Government and others in the House. We did make progress, so I am happy to see that take place.

I am happy to see things done with regard to the spousal allowance, but obviously the Hon. Member does not remember where all these programs began. She does not remember how they were originally put in force. The concern for child care, the pension plans, the GIS and the spousal allowance were certainly all instruments of the Liberal Government. Therefore, I think if the Hon. Member were to go back and look at the record, her questions to me would be phrased differently.

We should consider the example of Canada student loans. When the Government finally took a step to come out with something precise, the result was that \$5 million was taken away from the Canada Student Loans Program. It is not even as though the Government were going to give it away. The Government was going to lend the money to the kids so that they would be able to work. This was done after the Hon. Bette Stephenson told us in April of 1983 that the amount of Government spending on student loans should be increased. That is found in her communiqué from her council of Ministers of Education on April 25, 1983.

I am concerned whether our vision is going to be big enough or whether, instead, we are going to be mean, narcissistic and inward looking.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, I have listened to many of the speeches which have been given in the House. Could the Hon. Member indicate how long he thinks a Throne Speech should be? If I added up all the things that various Members think should have been in it, I think we would have been sitting here into the second day listening to the Governor General read the Throne Speech.

Mr. de Corneille: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House are not concerned with length as much as with quality. There were several dozen references to dialogue, communication, understanding and discussion; but with regard to hard concrete understanding of where the Government is going, we are as clueless now as we were before the Throne Speech was made.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The time allocated for the question and comment period now being over, we shall resume debate with the Hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise).