

It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Wenman)—Atomic Energy—Effective and stringent international safeguards over use; the hon. member for Peterborough (Mr. Domm)—Parks Canada—Cancellation of proposed relocation of regional office from Cornwall to Peterborough; the hon. member for Winnipeg-St. James (Mr. Keeper)—Canadian Pacific Railway—Winnipeg—Request for commitment on rail relocation.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mrs Côté for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. Chuck Cook (North Vancouver-Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, indeed it is an honour to be elected to this noble gathering of men and women from across Canada. Many of us vary in our political viewpoints, but here in this House we can all be heard by each other and by the nation.

I represent the constituency of North Vancouver-Burnaby. It is on the lower mainland of British Columbia, and it is what I would call a heartland community. We are home owners, over 80 per cent own their own homes. We are basically middle class, hard-working, intelligent people who remain committed to the protestant work ethic, law and order and the individual right of a citizen to work out his own destiny in safety. We are taxpayers. Oh, do we pay taxes! In short, we are part of the great middle class of this nation that pay most of the taxes and worry about the future of our community, our province and our country.

We are a very long way from the nation's capital. In mileage it is 2,840 miles; in the time it is three hours earlier. In communications and understanding it sometimes appears to be light years away. We live on the other side of several ranges of mountains which are much more than a geographic barrier. They are a barrier to communication and understanding between east and west.

Our concerns, though, are the same as all Canadians. Whether in North Vancouver-Burnaby, Lethbridge, Brandon, Waterloo or Corner Brook, we talk about the same things and are distressed by the same problems which face all Canadians—unemployment, inflation which seems to go on unchecked, mortgage interest payments which are destroying many of our families, the critical need for housing particularly on the west coast, a national government which seems to be out of control and even now planning new bureaucracies in an

The Address—Mr. Cook

attempt to be all things to all peoples, but at what cost! We are concerned about a government that for ten years has spent far more than it could collect, leaving a legacy for all of our children which we regret.

We are concerned about national unity. There is a rising whirlwind in the west that is only felt at this moment as a wisp of a small breeze in central Canada. It is a wind that may engulf this country if the insensitivity and neglect continue. It is no wonder why, despite some good candidates, there is no member of this government who was elected west of Portage and Main. Surely western Canada has given the clearest message possible to this old and unfeeling government. Surely now this government will listen and respond to the desires, needs and legitimate concerns of western Canada. It is a growing, building and developing western half of this nation. The arrogance of decision-making, the failure to listen, has planted seeds of secession in the west which will be difficult to uproot, but if left to flourish through neglect will certainly grow and overcome all of us.

In the Speech from the Throne I was given an extra task, like my colleagues from Saskatchewan, Alberta and, of course, British Columbia. I and the others were charged with the responsibility of representing my constituents to the nation, but also to represent the nation to my constituents. My constituents, along with all other Canadians, are the nation. Even the suggestion that the people of North Vancouver-Burnaby are something different from the nation is an insult to all Canadians.

If it means that I am to represent the nation and explain to my constituents why it was necessary to use anti-dumping rules to destroy over 200 British Columbia jobs for the benefit of Algoma, I will have difficulty. This case was a transfer of British Columbia jobs to Ontario in order to meet an Alberta demand. The wide-flange steel fabrication decision is one I will have trouble explaining.

If Atlantic fishermen are given subsidies and aid, and there is not an equal opportunity given to Pacific fishermen, I will have trouble explaining that. When the interprovincial ferries of the maritimes are subsidized and the national government cuts back the subsidy for northern transportation in British Columbia and up the coast, then I will have difficulty. Indeed, one Liberal cabinet minister had difficulty as well: she is no longer here.

The problem is not with the members of this House from the western region. The problem is a tired, old government that over the years has been so insensitive to the needs and desires of a region of Canada that they have sown the seeds of disenchantment, which is now manifesting itself as alienation. The insensitivity of that paragraph in the Speech from the Throne did not help Canadian unity.

I fear for my country. I fear the small groups of disenchant-ed that, like Quebec in the sixties, are now surfacing in every area of western Canada. Whatever name they may call themselves—and there are many—whatever differences they have in personality and desires, they are all calling for secession. These small groups lack credible leadership, but that could