

The Address—Mr. Darling

At the same time as the Government has its finger on the pulse at home, it is showing greater concern for international affairs. Canada is not an island geographically or economically. Over recent years international confidence in Canada has eroded. We seem to forget that trade with other countries is not a sideline but rather a necessity for economic well-being. The Government has already made new inroads with the Government of the United States and others, both in terms of good will and future trading prospects.

● (1530)

The vast similarities between Canada and the United States mean two things: first, we are in direct competition for various markets; and, second, there are untold possibilities for good co-operation between Canada and the United States. While this Government has no intention whatsoever of offering Canada as the fifty-first state in the union, we believe the effect of the U.S. economy on Canada should be realistically accommodated.

Frequent communication and harmony with the U.S. can help Canada through increased trade and commerce passing over the border. At the same time, we are determined to refurbish our internationalism in the world. Our main objectives are very clear: to defend freedom and preserve peace, to prevent nuclear confrontation, to improve trading relations, and to build a healthier world economy.

This Government intends to honour its commitment to NATO so we may earn the right to full consultation and participation in policies relating to that alliance. As has been the case in the past, we want to maintain our reputation as a global peacemaker by working toward the cessation of nuclear weapons development and use.

With regard to our own defence, we are convinced that the Canadian Armed Forces need a new definition of their role that is pertinent to present day conditions. The mandate of the Canadian Armed Forces has not been examined since the early 1970s. We all agree that we are now living in a different world with changed priorities and varied attitudes. When the mandate has been clearly defined and modernized, we intend to give our forces the resources they need to get the job done. That simple phrase lies behind the operating philosophy of this new Government. We are setting our sights on getting the job done.

Past governments have liberally dished out rhetorical pap to the people of Canada, but we understand the message of the people of Canada: they will have no more of it. Canadians want solid direction and commitment to effect change in their homeland. The runaway train needs dedicated brakemen to keep this country on track and out of the woods.

I believe the Speech from the Throne followed by the Government's economic statement has shown our intent to produce legislation with teeth. We are not bending to Opposition derision about consultation and co-operation to help form policy and decision. We are proud to invite the provinces, the private sector, labour and educators into the circle. The day of autonomous Government with little or no accountability is

gone. Canada has a new team at the helm and there are many talented hands on the tiller. The public cry for action from Parliament has not, for the first time in many years, fallen on deaf ears.

I am sure my colleagues and a good many others will see that there is real and meaningful change. The new confidence is now in effect across the country and is in effect even in my own riding, a rural area. As I mentioned earlier, some of us are certainly going to be hurt by some of the cuts. In my own riding, there are not too many federal jobs available and there are not too many federal agencies. If I were to have my way, these cuts would be put in force and put in force strongly everywhere but in the riding of Parry Sound-Muskoka. We are all going to be looking hard at our own ridings and, I suppose, telling the powers that be in the Government that particular positions and agencies are important to the riding.

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, in the document tabled Thursday night by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), we saw that some \$200 million will be cut from unemployment insurance payments. This will be done through a series of what are called intensified interviews with unemployment insurance recipients. This means that workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own will be hassled and will face even more technicalities, red tape and requirements. That will force them off unemployment insurance and on to welfare. We believe that this is only the beginning of the Government's actions.

The Hon. Member who spoke before lunch referred to and quoted with approval a statement to the effect that unemployment insurance creates unemployment. A great many people across Canada fear this attitude of the Conservative Government. Is it the view of the Hon. Member only or is it the view of the Tory Party that unemployment insurance causes unemployment?

Mr. Darling: Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member had been paying attention, he would have realized that I was quoting the words of John Bulloch, the President of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. There is no question about it. All of us know this after hearing the many people who come to our offices. The great majority of unemployment insurance claims are legitimate claims. However, there is a certain percentage of people who seem to continue to live on unemployment insurance. This is something the new Government will look into. It will see if it can do away with some of these unfavourable occurrences, which are probably leading to continued unemployment.

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, I was fully aware of the fact that the Hon. Member was quoting the words of John Bulloch. However, I pointed out that he appeared to be quoting those words with approval. I would like to know whether the Hon. Member approves of that statement or disapproves of it. Is it in fact his point of view that unemployment insurance causes or contributes to unemployment?