

Being an Atlantic Canadian I know that with our historic ties, the opportunities we have had in the past, our natural heritage and the fact that so many people go back and forth to the New England States—the Boston States as we refer to them—the impact will be substantial. If there is to be criticism about our trade negotiations it cannot be criticism for trying. I should think that the only criticism that one should get would be for not trying. We should not be criticized for trying. If we are the winners, I suggest to the Hon. Member that Atlantic Canada will be as big a winner if not the biggest winner in the entire nation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We have about one minute left for both the question and the answer. The Hon. Member for Carleton—Charlotte (Mr. McCain).

Mr. McCain: Mr. Speaker, mine will be a short comment and I will try to stay within the minute. Atlantic Canada is an area which deals in agricultural, fishing and forest products in the main plus an element, an important element, that of manufacture. It is an area which can only prosper more by an extended market in a fair trade opportunity. I am certainly a supporter of the concept of approaching free trade as closely as we can get to it but of achieving fair trade.

One of the objectives of the Atlantic Enterprise Program is to reduce the red tape, to expedite the application from date of receipt until reality. A major factor in the process is to inject new expertise and to reduce the red tape. Once these steps are accomplished, that program will go forward in a smooth and productive fashion, which will be of major benefit to Atlantic Canada.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Resuming debate. The Hon. Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone).

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, a Throne Speech is an interesting reflection of the social and political philosophies of a Government. We learn a great deal about its political program and agenda and what it does or does not stand for. This past year in its Throne Speech the Government returned to the 19th century, the social Darwinism theories of survival of the fittest. That is where the Government seems content to remain. The Government takes away from the poor and the powerless and gives to the rich and strong. We agree that the deficit must be addressed, a deficit that grew because of its great safety net which supported our citizens during the severe recession of the early 1980s. We also agree that action must be taken, but not on the backs of the elderly, the sick, the one-parent families or the middle-aged unemployed, those who are least able to bear the burden.

This Government seems unable to act in a consistent fashion. We are told by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) that the country is almost bankrupt, that government spending must be reduced, that transfer payments to the provinces must be cut because the federal deficit must decline. But at the same time, the Prime Minister finds \$1 billion to save the uninsured depositors of the Western Bank disaster. He found

another \$600 million to assist in the purchase of Gulf Canada, and yet another \$56 million to change the colour of our soldiers' uniforms. He just recently decided to spend \$41 million on a maximum security prison in his riding, the wrong type in the wrong place. This is a first-class boondoggle.

The media has said that the Throne Speech contains something for everyone, that it tries to be all things to all people. Well, I disagree. All that is demonstrated is the Government's lack of political will to close the widening gap between the rich and the poor. It contains an unfair, uneven approach to responsible Government. The Government continues to practise the favouring of the well-to-do by increasing capital gains allowances and RRSPs to levels that the majority of Canadians cannot even dream of while it continues to deindex family allowance and the income tax table a sneaky hidden 3 per cent per year.

Not only am I concerned about the social and economic well being of the people in this country, I am interested as well in the country's growth as an independent, sovereign political entity with all its indigenous richness of heritage and culture.

Under Liberal leadership in the 1970s, the arts in Canada enjoyed a growth rate of which there were few equals in the economy. At the start of the decade there were five professional dance companies in Canada. By 1980 there were 23. The number of professional theatres increased sixfold to 121 and half of their productions were Canadian. The number of professional visual artists more than doubled to 28,755, while the number of publishing houses had more than doubled to 89, almost three-quarters of them now Canadian-owned.

• (1640)

I could tell you about what happened in theatre, dance, symphony orchestras. However, the point that I would like to make is that Pierre Berton, appearing before the Senate Committee on Mass Media in 1970, said that we must sing our own songs and dream our own dreams. It was with this in mind that Canadian artists began to repatriate themselves to Canada and they won major victories.

Canadian content requirements for TV and radio, in the latter instance creating a foundation for a Canadian pop music industry, the withdrawal of tax privileges from foreign magazines, the disallowance for tax purposes of commercials placed by Canadian companies on U.S. border TV stations and, by far the most important of all, the increase in spending on culture by all Governments, which reached more than \$2 billion by the early 1980s, was very important. The Liberal Government was a Government of vision promoting pride in our Canadian heritage.

I wish to comment upon the specific language used by the Government in the second to last page of the Throne Speech. I cannot refer you to the particular page number because the Government has omitted to place any page numbers on the copies of the Throne Speech which it distributed.