

three times in the past week of participating in the process of federal-provincial consultation. I know that all provinces welcome this fresh and somewhat novel approach. I am sure that all Hon. Members have confidence in the outcome of today's First Ministers' meeting. Few of my constituents, Mr. Speaker, oppose the federal commitment to the quality of the two official languages. Many, though, resent the insensitivity of previous administrations in the pursuit of that goal.

[*Translation*]

Today, in the House, we have an abundance of talent from all parts of Canada. We are seeing a remarkable phenomenon which would have been inconceivable as recently as ten years ago: two Anglophones from Ontario speaking French in the House, and we have a number of new Francophone members who are taking advantage of this opportunity to learn English. If language is the key to culture and if culture is in the heart and the soul, let us open our hearts and souls and reason will follow.

[*English*]

The Speech from the Throne referred to the necessity for co-operation between the two levels of Government in fostering multiculturalism. Perhaps nowhere is multiculturalism better fostered as something far beyond song and dance than in Alberta where there is no majority. In Edmonton South the Edmonton Heritage Festival is held annually. It is held in a park named, appropriately, after our first mayor of Ukrainian descent, William Hawrelak. This year, over 400,000 people visited the 44 pavilions. A new ethnic group provided a pavilion for the first time, namely, the English.

The Hon. Horst Schmid, Alberta's Minister of International Trade and the godfather of multiculturalism in my province, said that the Albertan is a man whose father, descendant of French, Cree and Scottish fur traders, married an Italian Polish girl from Hamilton. Our Albertan and his German Mennonite wife leave his Jewish-owned wholesale business in their Korean-made car, drive past the mosque to see a play by an Irish author featuring English and black American actors. That is followed by Chinese sweet and sour spareribs at a Ukrainian restaurant where they are joined by their daughter who is majoring in Greek classics at university and her Uganda born East Indian engineer fiancé. Mr. Speaker, the mosaic is fast becoming an alloy in the kindly crucible of understanding.

● (1720)

The people of Edmonton South welcome the economic initiatives which the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) announced on Thursday. For us, government does not, cannot, create real jobs. Government can create a climate in which business can plan, act, expand, and buy and sell. The first excruciating steps have been taken on the perilous path to growth and, dare we say it, solvency. It is right and reassuring that in undertaking this journey we commit ourselves to preserving social justice so that the costs of change do not fall on those least able to bear them. Even though we attain the

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Minister's goal of reducing the projected level of annual expenditures by 1990 to something like \$10 billion or \$15 billion below what they are today, we may still be stuck with a structural deficit. Therein lies the challenge for true change and reform, to provide incentive rather than penalty, and to tackle truly the fundamental reform of our tax system.

During the course of this past summer I encountered hundreds of mature men and women who had been laid off or forced into early retirement because of the recession, compounded by the disastrous effects of the National Energy Program. As well, there were hundreds of well educated young men and women looking for their first real job. Now, we all know that true job creation is going to come in the field of small business. Let us therefore encourage what I call a generational partnership wherein the senior experienced former business people join with the energetic, well trained young people, form a business with funding from conventional institutions, backed by federal government insurance or guarantees. In four or five years the senior partners could extract an equity share as a retirement nest egg earlier denied them, leaving the now seasoned junior partners to further expand and develop new employment.

Albertans, Mr. Speaker, were encouraged by the energy initiatives taken by the Minister of Finance last Thursday. Since 1980, western Canadians have been angered and frustrated by the unilaterally imposed oil and gas pricing schedules, by the new excise and income taxes on gas and oil, and by the centralizing aspects of the NEP such as the changing of the incentive system to target exploration on federally controlled lands. My constituents viewed those policies as a federal grab for revenue and power in an area of provincial jurisdiction. Second, investors had lost confidence in the oil and gas industry. The NEP's huge volume of complex regulations contributed to the uncertainty of the business community. Perhaps \$17 billion of direct capital investment, which could have created 500,000 jobs, left the country. Third, the NEP caused a drop in exploration activity and development efforts. Following cancellation of the Cold Lake and Alsands projects, the private sector followed by withdrawing drilling rigs and exploration crews. Many companies announced cut-backs in exploration plans. The Economic Council of Canada maintains that the NEP exacerbated the heavy debt of many important oil companies, rendering new exploration activities even less likely.

The NEP crippled more than the West, Mr. Speaker. The Ontario Minister of Energy, Mr. Andrewes, says the NEP was almost as costly to Ontario as to the West. He says that from 1979 to 1983 the NEP cost Ontario 90,000 jobs and was responsible for price hikes amounting to 33 per cent of all inflation experienced by his province. Ontario's wholesale costs of crude oil and natural gas almost doubled from \$4.7 billion in 1979 to \$9 billion in 1983.

The announcements made by the Minister of Finance last Thursday are a big step forward. Market pricing for oil with safeguards to protect consumers from price surges, changes in the PGRT which will apply to integrated oil sands projects and