

*The Address—Mr. Cassidy*

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Henderson	Killens	Tobin
Hopkins	Malépart	Turner (Vancouver Quadra)—29
Isabelle	Marchi	
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Desrosiers	Lesick	Warner
Dorin	Lewis	Weiner
Duguay	Malone	Wilson (Etobicoke Centre)
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Fontaine	McKinnon	
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	Mitges	
	Murphy	

● (1200)

**Mr. Speaker:** I declare the motion lost. I recognize the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre.

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you and particularly commend the fact that for the first time in our history we have a Speaker of the House of Commons who is genuinely the choice of all Members and not simply the choice of the Government of the day. I believe we all have a responsibility to try to restore the sense of purpose and decorum of this Chamber. I for one share that sense of responsibility. I believe we can restore decorum in this Chamber without harming Parliament's ability to make the Government accountable and to ensure that the differences of the three Parties are put forward.

I have to say that I regret the kind of tactics we have just seen in the House which are incomprehensible to average Canadians, but if average Canadians could understand on what we have wasted half an hour of the House's time, they would find those tactics juvenile, infantile and demeaning.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Cassidy:** I want to begin by saying a word to my constituents in Ottawa Centre and to all of the other federal employees who are affected by the Government's restraints on their political rights. This summer, the Charter case on political rights, which I launched in 1984, finally reached the Federal Court. Mr. Justice Walsh's decision opened the door a bit wider to political activity by federal employees, but in his decision Mr. Justice Walsh refused to strike down the relevant sections of the Public Service Employment Act. I have, therefore, gone to the Federal Court of Appeal in conjunction with my co-plaintiffs from the Public Service Alliance. We hope to win our points there, but I deeply regret that there was no mention of this issue in the Throne Speech. It is time the Government got this issue out of the courts and into Parliament by bringing forward legislation which we can debate and put into law as the Conservatives promised before the 1984 election.

I remain committed to winning political rights for public servants. I want to warn the Government that its record will be on the line if it does not act on its promise to provide political rights before the 1988 election.

There are two other local issues on which I would like to comment briefly, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely disturbed at the cuts announced today in the budget for the National Research Council. I have today written to all members of the board of the National Research Council urging them to do everything possible to stop those cuts, including resigning en masse if necessary. It is intolerable that the Government's decision to have a space agency and to have the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) head a committee on industrial research should be used to undermine the National Research Council at a time when everybody in Canada acknowledges the need for this country to take leadership in research and development rather than gutting the five institutions and the work that is now being done.

I want to say to you, Mr. Speaker, since you are now in office as Speaker, that I am disturbed. I hope you will make representations privately to the Government over its delays in proclaiming Bill C-45 in order to give bargaining rights to House of Commons employees. The employees feel that the delay is being put into place in order to give the Commons administration time to shake things up in a way that will be favourable to management and will disregard the rights of employees. I hope that you take that very seriously, Sir, and get Bill C-45 proclaimed as quickly as possible.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted with the progress made by the New Democratic Party in Quebec, and I want to thank all Quebecers who have joined our ranks in increasing numbers over the past two years. Recent polls indicate that nearly one third of the population of Quebec would support the New Democratic Party in the event of a federal election and that Ed Broadbent is as popular in Quebec, as the leader of his party, as the Prime Minister. Although we have yet to win federal seats in Quebec, the NDP is ahead of the Conservatives in Quebec,