

● (1550)

We in the Conservative Party have not only proposed measures to combat inflation but, more important, we have the will to do so.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: Perhaps this is because we believe that what Canada has achieved to this day has been because men and women have been free to launch their endeavours and to seek their rewards, to run risks and to profit from their enterprise. What we have advocated, what we argue for and what we espouse is to reward savings, not confiscate them; to encourage investment, not to confiscate it; to curb taxation, not to increase it. It is our policy to encourage private ownership of homes, of farms and of profitable enterprise and to maintain confidence in the value of personal initiative.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: It is a fundamental article of faith to our contemporary philosophy to see social justice fulfilled. There is no mention of this, strangely, in the Speech from the Throne. We want to see social justice fulfilled as it can only realistically be fulfilled in an environment of national order and national purpose. Inflation that is uncontained means injustice and growing disparity for millions of Canadians. We have to decide, and very soon, whether it is an acceptable truth that the achievement of a stable economic system is beyond the competence of our free institutions. I, for one, believe in the capability of a free people to respond to any such threat or challenge to their well-being.

I believe the present condition of the country requires the reassertion of our faith in our institutions. There are many ways to give expression to our faith. One of them, surely, is to say to ourselves and to others that this country can enjoy more responsive leadership and government, and to believe that Canada is not beset by problems of insoluble, global magnitude but is in fact a country confronted by unique and rare opportunities. Nothing was ever achieved under the slogan "It can't be done". We do not support that attitude of resignation and we will not support it in this parliament.

I move, seconded by the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner)—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Wagner: You are nervous.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I read in the newspaper today that the government had come back to face parliament with great confidence. I have never seen such a nervous-looking bunch.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I move that the following be added to the address: "We respectfully affirm to Your Excellency that Your Excellency's advisers do not possess the confidence of this House".

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I recognize the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau).

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Boy, you must be nervous.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to hear the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) and the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) describe members of this caucus as being nervous. I think this kind of misunderstanding of the mood of the House is quite the same as his misunderstanding of the mood of his own caucus.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Before disagreeing further with some of the arguments put forward by the Leader of the Opposition, I should like to join with him in saying that it gives me great pleasure today to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Stolerly) and the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Pelletier) are among the youngest members of the House, in terms of seniority, but they have both established impressive reputations for very hard work and a very conscientious approach to the constituents concerned, to the business of this House, its committees and its caucus.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: I think it is traditional, Mr. Speaker, to say that one cannot help but be hopeful about the future of this noble institution of parliament when one sees contributions of such high standard and potential made by members from various parts of the country. I would want to add that one cannot help being very encouraged and very gratified by the fact that these young Liberals have spoken in a way which indicates that the spirit of Liberalism is very much alive and very much on the march in this country and in this parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1600)

[Translation]

Mr. Trudeau: We are beginning the second session of the twenty-ninth parliament at a time, Mr. Speaker, when the rapidly changing circumstances of the family of man are making unprecedented demands upon the wisdom, the courage and the foresight of national governments all over the world.

As the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) pointed out, seldom has a year been so marked by sweeping changes and unpredictable events as was 1973. Few countries were unaffected; fewer still could disregard the lessons of those events.

We have learned that in a world of trading nations grown closely interdependent, no state, no matter how