

growth of oil consumption and a consequent reduction of oil imports over the next five years. The right hon. gentleman opposite in a speech in Toronto on February 12 charged that my leader had "given in" to the demands of the other summit countries. He then went on to say "probably because he was in a state of euphoria over hobnobbing with the summit leaders".

I would say to the Prime Minister—if he were in his seat at the moment—who misled Canadians on this issue as he did on so many issues during the election campaign, that it was not euphoria but common sense and an understanding of what will be required of us in the future that persuaded the Conservative government to join with its economic summit partners in dealing effectively with the international oil crisis.

But since the Prime Minister believes that we gave in at Tokyo, and since he implies that somehow Canada was sold down the river for having to reduce our rate of growth of oil consumption and our oil imports, how is he going to explain his renegeing on this commitment to our economic summit partners? What is his alternative to reducing the rate of growth of oil consumption? Is it an admonition to go out and use more of this rapidly depleting commodity and become ever more reliant on uncertain offshore supplies? But he leaves that unanswered.

I would also like to comment briefly on the reference in the throne speech to disarmament and the dangers of nuclear holocaust. We heartily concur with the appointment of an ambassador for disarmament, but one would hope that the work of such great Canadians as General E. L. M. Burns and Harry Jay, men who perform much the same kind of role over a long period of time, would not go unnoticed or unrecognized.

The throne speech correctly emphasizes that at stake in this issue is human survival on this planet, and I am certain that all members share a deep concern over nuclear proliferation. Yet nuclear proliferation does not occur in a vacuum; nor is it prevented by the appointment of an ambassador for disarmament. I would be far more confident if this government had recommitted itself to the most stringent safeguards possible in the export of nuclear technology, a commitment which we had made, something which certain government members objected to when I raised that issue at the United Nations.

I plead with the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan), because I know his intentions to be well-founded, even if his actions are somewhat circumscribed, to do his utmost to bring greater openness to the policymaking processes of his department as we look at foreign policy in this session. I plead with him to provide the means whereby Canadians will have the opportunity to make their views, their contributions and their concerns known.

I plead with the government not to be afraid to take a stand or to try to play it safe in some backwater of neutrality when international events require more of a response from this government than that which we so frequently hear on the Prime Minister's lips these days when he says: "Oh, we will consider that problem at the next summit meeting in Venice".

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

*The Address—Mr. Evans*

**Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, before addressing myself to the Speech from the Throne I should like to congratulate you on being appointed Assistant Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, and through you I should like to congratulate Madam Speaker on being elected Speaker of this House. At the best of times the position of Speaker is demanding, but I know you have the support and co-operation of all the members in this chamber in the execution of your duties.

In addition, I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Rimouski (Mrs. Côté) and the hon. member for Sudbury (Mr. Frith) for moving and seconding the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

I should also like to welcome to this House all returning members and to acknowledge our new colleagues who were elected for the first time on February 18. It was barely 11 months ago when I was first elected to this House, and now after two elections in the period of a year I find myself referred to as a veteran.

Most importantly, I would like to thank the people of Ottawa Centre for the renewed and strengthened confidence they demonstrated in me on February 18. I look forward, as before, to serving and representing my constituents on the local and national issues that we face.

I also look forward to my responsibilities as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen), and I want to thank the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) for the confidence he has expressed in me with this appointment.

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

**Mr. Evans:** Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address two issues of paramount importance to the future of Canada, two issues which permeated the Speech from the Throne. First, I refer to the necessary renewal of our national institutions, but more important of our national will; and second, to the revitalization of our economy.

Let me turn my attention first to the matter of the economy. The past several years have clearly been a time of serious economic difficulty for all industrialized nations. Inflation and unemployment have risen. Investment and growth have been lacklustre, and generally confidence in the ability of governments to understand and to come to grips with these persistent problems has diminished.

However, I firmly believe that this diminished confidence is unjustified. Governments, especially this government, not only understand the problems that we face but have hardened their resolve and are taking actions to restore stable economic order to the world economies. This is not to say that these actions can or will bring about quick solutions. They will not. We are facing extremely complex problems brought about by fundamentally changed conditions. Foremost among these are the disappearance of cheap energy and the dramatic redistribution of wealth between nations.