

Senator Barootes: I know that the details of, the extent of and the nature of this kind of support cannot be immediately specified until the harvest is completed and consultations with the provincial governments can be held, but the commitment is there, it is unequivocal and it is binding.

Senator Steuart: You are a great talker, but I want to see some action.

Senator Barootes: All of western Canada can count on federal support, and I want you to spread that good word when you get back to Saskatchewan.

Senator Steuart: I will get back to you in a minute; you are making me sick.

Senator Barootes: Already! There is more to come.

Perhaps with the opening of Parliament, something further can be done to alleviate the damage by the strike-lockout at the Lakehead which is, once again, crippling the credibility and stability of Canada as a grain-exporting country, and before we lose precious sales contracts. At noon today in Ottawa a new wheat sales agreement was signed with the Russian delegation. I am sure the west will be pleased to hear that.

To carry on with the list of parliamentary achievements not entirely recognized by the media and perhaps by some Canadians:

9. FIRA, the Foreign Investment Review Agency, or as it was known colloquially, the Foreign Investment Rejection Agency, has been replaced appropriately by Investment Canada.

10. Divorce acts have been suitably updated to meet modern social necessities, to help remove the stigma of blame and to restore a balance of fiscal responsibility between spouses. Senate suggestions were appropriately included in the legislation.

11. Discrimination in the Indian Act has been removed and the beginning of self-government restored to Indian bands. Further, the Speech from the Throne promises the convening of a third First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal and Constitutional Affairs.

12. Seven women are now deputy ministers and a good start has been made in affirmative action programs to help provide equality of opportunity in government and in corporations who deal with government. The Speech from the Throne undertakes several further initiatives for the "advancement of women in government," for a concerted approach to child care, for the issues associated with family relationships, working parents, battered women and child abuse;

13. The federal government has developed some leaders of great ability in their fields: Joe Clark in External Affairs. Everyone is in praise of his performance as our Foreign Affairs Minister and have said that they have not been handled as well since the days of Lester B. Pearson. Mike Wilson in Finance, Don Mazankowski, Marcel Masse, Flora MacDonald, Barbara McDougall, Pat Carney, John Crosbie, Ray Hnatyshyn and our own Lowell Murray. Please note that three of these stars

are ladies. A great credit to them and to the Prime Minister for recognizing their talents and allowing them to be developed.

● (1600)

14. In the area of interprovincial affairs and relationships with the federal government, one must certainly acknowledge a new air of cooperation, civility and respect between the provincial and federal administrations in virtually every department. Despite areas of healthy disagreement and strongly held positions, confrontational politics and misunderstandings have been replaced by wholesome discussion, mutual respect and co-ordination. For all Canadians this is a distinct relief.

15. Internationally and with the United States, our vastly improved relationships must be credited to the Prime Minister and to the Right Honourable Joe Clark. We have earned the respect of all nations and, specifically, the eyes and ears of our southern neighbour are focused upon us. The great triumph of Expo '86 has brought world attention and tourist dollars and put Canada on the map again. I might add that our Saskatchewan pavilion has been a most pleasing and popular success, already drawing over 2 million visitors, and it certainly is worth bragging about.

Although bargaining on a freer trade agreement with the United States will be tough, we have much more to gain than they have. A nation of 25 million souls, which produces far more than they can consume, cannot live in isolation, selling their goods and their services to themselves alone. We live by trade. To be excluded from a marketplace of 250 million people which is so near to us is to threaten our very standard of life by economic hara-kiri. Moreover, the status quo is neither guaranteed nor sustainable. Our present prosperity in central Canada is predicated on the U.S.-Canada Auto Pact, a bilateral agreement which can be terminated on one year's notice by either party.

With the recent American pre-election surge of protectionism and with threats vis-à-vis Canada's trade affecting steel, shakes, shingles, softwoods, hogs, beef, potash, uranium, fish—and I fear soon to be directed to other natural resources and products—how long do you think a one-year's notice on the Auto Pact can last? It is vital that we try to negotiate a mutually advantageous trade pact, as was mentioned in the Throne Speech, and make the consequent internal adjustments now in order to safeguard our standard of living and our way of life in the future. And further, I might add, we should avoid having individual provinces forfeit our bargaining chips whilst the negotiating game is in progress, as has been done recently in the negotiations on financial services.

The Throne Speech also took cognizance of the fact that this trading nation will place similar emphasis on multilateral negotiations and "particular emphasis on trade with Japan and other Pacific Rim countries."

16. Finally, on this partial list of achievements not well recognized, I include: Parliamentary reform; massive deregulation in many agencies and departments, which is promised to