

The Address—Mr. Burghardt

This is how Canada is viewed on the world stage, Mr. Speaker. It is imperative that we continue this thrust in order to secure a just and lasting peace.

The second thrust is to encourage economic growth. Having come through a critical period of recession that hit the pocket-books of Canadians from all walks of life, we now see the underlying strength of the Canadian economy re-emerging, a sign of a new vitality in a number of sectors. The strength of Canada's economic comeback was noted recently by the British magazine *Euromoney*, which rated 93 different nations from the standpoint of economic growth, inflation, exports and the balance of payments in the last year. Canada's combined performance coming out of the recession was ranked first while the United States was ranked fourth.

● (1530)

Despite this, there is still a feeling of anxiety in Canada as we contemplate inflation, interest rates, unemployment, social security, mortgage rates and credit restrictions, just to mention a few. To this end I applaud the Government in providing opportunities through growth. Along with direct job creation programs, the establishment of a \$1 billion youth opportunity fund that will help young people in their search for much needed jobs is a welcome sign that we truly believe in the well known phrase that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. This fund will also encourage the private sector to provide training and work to those entering the work force for the first time.

I strongly believe, Mr. Speaker, in the work ethic of an individual trying to guarantee his or her own security. I believe in the free enterprise system. I also believe that I should have concern for the social well-being of my neighbour, that in fact I am my brother's keeper. Our Canadian way of life over the years has seen a coming together of the free enterprise system and the social system where, through government direction, some of the benefits of free enterprise have been shared with the less fortunate.

The same applies to national and regional concerns. Unfortunately of late, it seems to me at least that our view of Canada as a nation has frequently been secondary to regional concerns. We have lost much of that mix, that compromise of free enterprise and social concern. Some people's legitimate regional concerns have degenerated into forms of provincial patriotism which increasingly violate the need for national justice and equality.

That is why I am pleased to see that a new era of federal-provincial planning in consultation is being launched. The public debate should concentrate on how to secure economic equality and social justice for all Canadians, not on a power struggle between different levels of governments. Such a debate would allow for principled differences and accommodate regional diversities.

Just as provinces are not islands unto themselves on the national scene, Canada is not an island unto itself on the world scene. The Throne Speech alluded to an aggressive trade drive and the need to compete in the world economy. This is essential if we are not only to maintain but to improve our

position in international markets. To maintain and perhaps to enhance our standard of living, we must continue the growth we have seen in exports over the past two decades. If we stand still we will fall back as other nations gain ground. We simply cannot neglect this vital area of economic activity.

The passage of the Western Grain Transportation Act in the last session of Parliament, coupled with expanded West Coast port facilities, will greatly increase our export activity. This new legislation will not only help us to increase our exports markets, but will also bring economic benefits here at home, not just in the west but throughout the entire country. I know that in my own area of London industry will benefit from this much needed and courageous change in legislation.

History has shown that for a nation to retain its vitality and maintain its progress it must foster a continuing dialogue among its citizens. This leads me to the third thrust of partnership for recovery. Already the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) has been involved in economic consultations with provincial governments and economic sectors of the country. This dialogue must continue, involving all walks of life, so that we know what our directions and choices should be in a period following a recession where the assets from previous rapid economic growth are not available to deal with current problems.

The fourth thrust of the Throne Speech is to strengthen the safety net for all Canadians. The social security system which has been the cornerstone for caring and sharing for individuals has been, and continues to be, the envy of many other countries. Today, however, some voices are being raised suggesting that we do away with the safety net. With governments seriously constrained to keep, or even reduce, over-all spending, do we abandon our compassion, or do we find ways to meet those social and economic problems with the resources we do have available?

The Speech from the Throne spells out the need to strengthen that safety net, to provide financial assistance for medical care, hospital care and post-secondary education through the rearranging of funds which will provide more than \$500 million above moneys already estimated to be transferred to the provinces. This proves the Government's strong commitment to maintain the quality and integrity of our health services and post-secondary education.

In addition, again because of the period which we have just come through, I am pleased to support new measures to protect home owners, small businesses, the farming and fishing industries against the threat of high interest rates. The safety net also provides for personal safety and security with expected changes to the Criminal Code. It also points out the need to protect individual rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Here, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see that native people's rights will be addressed, in particular the rights of Indian women as they relate to the Indian Act. I have the opportunity of chairing the special subcommittee dealing with this contentious issue and I am gratified to see that legislation will be