

Thank you, Mr. Phoenix, for your kind introduction. I thank the International Iron and Steel Institute for this invitation. I would like to join your Chairman in welcoming our international guests to Canada.

Last week I was shown a cartoon in which a television announcer was saying: "In the news today, the million-to-one shot has come in, lead can be turned to gold, pigs can fly and hell has frozen over. Details at 11."

That pretty much sums up what is happening in these times of startling events. Every day we hear of drastic changes in the world, in nations, in economies, in industries and in people's lives.

It is a cliché to say that the only constant in today's world is change. But at the heart of every cliché is truth. And the truth is that it is a safe bet -- for me, for you, for Canadians -- that something will change tomorrow, and the change will affect our lives or the way we do things.

I know that Canada's international friends are interested in what's happening to Canada and how we are managing change. Tonight, I want to talk to you about the ways Canada is responding to the challenges and the opportunities of these startling events. As we look at the implications of these events we can all take a lesson from the 19th century English philosopher John Stuart Mill.

Mill, the story goes, awoke one morning with a strong feeling that the answer to the "question of the ages" had come to him during the night, but he had forgotten it. Mill placed a pen and paper beside his bed, reasoning that he could wake up and write the answer down when it came to him in the night again. Several days later, he awoke with the same feeling. He looked at the paper and saw that he had indeed awakened long enough to write down the answer. There, in his own handwriting, were these words: "Think in different terms."

In Canada -- as elsewhere -- the changing face of the world demands that we think in different terms. As our parents, our grandparents and their grandparents did, we are redefining the terms of our living together.

Two weeks ago, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney tabled, in the House of Commons, proposals entitled "Shaping Canada's Future Together." The proposals have a critical objective: building a stronger and more prosperous Canada where all Canadians can feel at home. We are convinced that Canadians want a country that is better equipped to meet the challenges of the global economy in the 21st century and beyond.

These proposals are aimed at doing just that. They include several fundamental reforms to the economic union. These proposals are designed to give Canada the means to act decisively to