

I applaud the Throne Speech because of its emphasis on small business. A very constructive way we are going to be doing this is in the area of tourism. I am delighted initiatives which have been taken by the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism (Mr. Smith) in bringing to world knowledge the extent of our tremendous tourist facilities here in Canada, and the tremendous opportunities which he has opened up through these programs which were announced in the Throne Speech. We are going to have to look for—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Order. The time for questions has expired. Debate.

**Mrs. Jennifer Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville):** Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honour for me to participate for the first time in debate upon the Speech from the Throne. Yet while this may be the first time, I speak in full anticipation that it will be the last time for many sessions that I shall do so from this side of the House. Not even the masterful dissertation of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on the Throne Speech before the Christmas recess will save it or his Government from the well deserved obscurity which awaits them after the election. Indeed, the Speech has already faded from public attention. It has already gone to join the legions of broken promises, failed expectations, understatements, misstatements and miscalculations by this Government which have preceded it.

Today the people of Canada want fact, not fiction. They want to know what is going on over at Revenue Canada. They want to know where all the jobs which were promised are. They want to see for themselves the industrial strategies which will keep us competitive and productive in a fast changing world. What they do not need, Mr. Speaker, or want, is another lecture on how this Government is in control, how it will pull us back from the brink of ruin and disaster caused by a bankruptcy of policy and spirit. The people of Canada, the voters of this country, know only too well the causes of the failures. They are all too obvious.

That is not to say, Mr. Speaker, that we on this side of the House find all of the Speech objectionable. Clearly we join in applauding the initiatives and objectives of the Prime Minister on behalf of world peace. We can even applaud the efforts of the Ministers to resolve difficulties with medicare and post-secondary education funding, even if the Government is only fulfilling existing obligations under the Established Programs Financing Act. We shall overlook that the \$500 million allocated for the task was made to appear as new money. It is, after all, a rare event when this Government lives up to any of its commitments.

However, there is little to applaud in a document which stands as a blueprint upon which the Government of Canada intends to govern during the current session. As a proposition that the Government has earned the right to govern beyond the next election, it is completely devoid of support. Does the Government really not realize that this time too many Canadians know the truth, the real truth? Not enough of our citizens will forget what was said and promised in the past. We might do well to remember in this year of 1984 that George Orwell

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wrote, "Who controls the past, controls the future. Who controls the present, controls the past". No one can believe that what we have seen over the past four years, no matter how big the deception, is a Government in control of anything. Do the 514,000 more unemployed Canadians today than there were in 1980 believe that these are the people who will get them back to work? We have a \$70 billion increase in our national debt, a debt upon which we now spend \$17 billion a year in interest payments alone, one and a half times what we will have spent on unemployment insurance benefits in 1983. Does this inspire faith that this Government can direct and run our economy? Does the singlehanded derailment of our oil and gas industry, and with it the once achievable goal of energy self-sufficiency in this decade, or the gross miscalculation, negligence and sheer incompetence which passes for management in some of our key Crown corporations such as Canadair inspire this faith? These are the points and issues a responsible Government which believes in public accountability would admit to before it asked one more time for the confidence of the electorate.

This Throne Speech is an election document. There is no mistaking it, and it is one of the worst sort. It is one which distorts, when it does not blithely gloss over the past. From this Government that is to be expected. What is more astonishing to me, however, is its almost complete lack of vision. As a reasonable and realistic blueprint for our future, even more than as an honest and factual record of the past, it is a failure. If the Government was sincere in its consideration of what lies ahead for our economy and our society—beyond the next election, that is—then surely there would have been within the Speech more than mere passing references to the issues upon which our future prosperity and success must be founded. Critical elements of our economy such as small business and tourism, and key aspects in restructuring to meet the challenges of the future, research and development, youth training, re-education and skills upgrading, were dealt with in most instances in one short paragraph.

The issue of productivity was one of the few issues upon which the Government lavished any reasonable attention. We must, I suppose, be thankful that it has finally recognized both the problems and the importance to our economy of increased productivity.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) in his speech spoke with great eloquence of the need to restore productivity and the reasons why we have failed to maintain or even to increase pre-1974 levels. He spoke of the need to approach the matter in a spirit of co-operation, to re-establish the appreciation of labour and its dignity. Government, in conjunction with management and labour, can find ways and means to increase productivity by answering the causes which are holding it back. Productivity will not come about simply with awards, medals and ribbons. Were that the case, the industrial base of the Soviet Union, with its heroes of labour, would not be as chronically inefficient and non-productive as it is.

Productivity, Mr. Speaker, comes from dignity and satisfaction in work. It comes from pride, craftsmanship and achieve-