

of yourself, why be afraid? When you are a Quebecker with all the resources and the vitality of an original culture, why limit your horizons and refuse to build a vast, youthful and prosperous country?

● (1600)

[English]

We have in all of the questions that face this House of Commons, a House of Commons in which there is a majority government, urgent obligations upon us all. If the government accepts, as I hope it will, the view of Parliament that we tried to introduce during our period as a government, that initiative should flow from all corners of this House and should not be confined to the ministerial benches, two results will ensue. One, there will be a greater richness, variety and accuracy of initiatives on which this House can rely. Second, there will be greater opportunity for the rich resources of knowledge, background, information and instinct that comes here from all corners of the land.

I hope that that lead which we established will be followed by this government. However, even with that, the major obligation rests with the occupants of the treasury benches. They are the ones who control the business of government. They are the ones to bring forward budgets or who, as today, refuse to bring forward budgets when they should be brought forward.

There are urgent matters before this nation. There should be urgent matters before this House. Unfortunately, the Speech from the Throne published yesterday indicated no sense of urgency about the economic crisis facing Canadians. It indicated no sense of urgency about the realization of the goal of energy self-sufficiency for this nation. It indicated no sense of the possibilities and the responsibilities available to Canada in the larger world community. For that reason, Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle):

[Translation]

—that the following be added:

This House regrets to inform your Excellency that your advisors have failed

- (1) To assure Parliament that a full budgetary presentation will be made before the end of May;
- (2) To provide adequate assistance to home owners, farmers and small businessmen against high interest rates;
- (3) To attach any real importance to reducing the federal deficit as an essential measure to combat inflation;
- (4) To offer policies to promote energy self-sufficiency; and
- (5) To provide effective leadership in international affairs, including unequivocal support for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I can only subscribe to the feelings expressed in French by the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Clark) at the end of his speech. He pointed out, and we share his opinion, how important it is for the fulfilment of our country not only to have access to both official languages but also to have a Parliament and a population that are increasingly

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anxious to take advantage of that enrichment which is bilingualism. I would have hoped that as far as his part of the country is concerned, the Leader of the Official Opposition would have at least attributed to us the goodwill he would like us to attribute to him as far as Francophones are concerned. I regret that, in the examples he gave he wanted to indicate that our government denied how important it was to work toward unity in this country and understand as much as possible the yearnings, ideals and fears of the various regions of the country. He failed to mention that our government has tried as much as his party while it was in power or in the opposition to find a solution to that serious problem of alienation in our country. I regret that his examples were based on rumours rather than reality, that they even reflected error rather than truth. The Leader of the Official Opposition tells me to give a few examples. Well, he accused the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) of failing to consult his Albertan counterpart when he decided not to cut, as the Leader of the Official Opposition said, the price of oil coming from the tar sands, but to limit its increase. Well, on the contrary the minister assures me that he did consult his counterpart.

The Leader of the Opposition also gave other examples in the field of transport. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) here tells me that all these examples are false. The Leader of the Opposition took care to say "there is talk". It may well be that "there is talk" but it is nothing but groundless rumours. In any case, I do not wish to start this session by disagreeing with the Leader of the Opposition on what may well be minor details. On the contrary, I want to assure him that our parties are in total agreement about the feelings he has expressed and about his will to make Parliament work actively and optimistically towards greater Canadian unity. He also gave a somewhat apocalyptic description of the present situation. I agree with him that we are living in difficult times. But I think it is important that at the beginning of a new session of Parliament we remember that Canada remains one of the most fortunate countries of the world.

As the world gets smaller and smaller, as good or bad news from the antipodes are transmitted and analysed within the hour on the streets of Montreal and Edmonton, Canadians are realizing that Canada along with a very small number of nations stands at the top of the pyramid of human happiness and that all the other nations have much less material wealth and freedom, so few of all those institutions that allow men and women to prosper freely in this human life.

This reality, Madam Speaker, must be recalled, because all those other peoples see and imagine Canada as some kind of far away oasis on the horizon, as a land of unbelievable happiness that is not only blessed with earthly wealth, but where people live fraternally in peace, safe from war, and enjoying institutions that aim at always expanding that freedom. And I think the great majority of those countries long for