

way he wished it was, and successful national governments since have recognized the limits of federal power. That is not a matter of constitutional law. It is a matter of common sense, and it is an approach which must be applied to the economy and the culture of Canada as well as to our constitution.

[*Translation*]

Today, Canadians want to recover control of such matters as concern them in their homes, in their communities. The challenge which this government, and this Parliament, must primarily face, is that of rerouting our Canadian economy. For the better part of the last ten years, we have constantly been plagued with a low rate of economic growth, a high rate of unemployment and a high rate of inflation. And short-term forecasts promise much more of the same.

Canadians have a right to ask themselves why, in as rich a country as ours, we have not been able to fare better. There is no doubt that the international situation is to be blamed in part. Today, we are feeling the effects of a slowing down in the economic activity in the United States—but we cannot blame the whole wide world for our problems. Canada is surely not in bondage. The failures in our economic policies have their roots here, not in Washington, Zurich or Jeddah.

We have an alternative. We may go on pretending that we cannot solve our own problems, and looking for scapegoats. That will surely result in the realization of pessimistic forecasts. Or we can take on the job, which is ours anyway, of building this country. The time has come to roll up our sleeves and build this country.

[*English*]

Our goals as a government are clear. The Canadian economy must begin growing again much more close to its potential. Job opportunities must be created for Canadians, especially for groups like young people, women in the Canadian economy, and native Canadians, among whom unemployment is especially high. We must reduce the inflation which continues to rob Canadians of their savings and the real value of their incomes. Simply continuing existing policies will not work. That is why we intend to change the economic direction of Canada in several ways.

First we intend to open up economic policy-making in Canada. Under our system government does not control the economy; it can only influence it. If that influence is to be effective, economic signals from the government must be public, understandable, and certain enough so that they can be relied upon. The best way to ensure that is to lift the shroud which has enveloped the making of economic policy. That is why we propose to encourage pre-budget hearings by a committee of this House, so that Canadians can understand the economic issues and options before the government. That is why we intend to make public with each budget four-year revenue and expenditure estimates. As we indicated today, that is why we are quite prepared to have a committee of parliament look into major economic questions such as the questions relating to interest rate policy.

*The Address—Mr. Clark*

Second, we intend to be much more specific in economic policy. We believe that management of the large economic levers of fiscal and monetary policy should be stable and consistent. We reject fine tuning as an effective economic option. Instead, we recognize our economy is not monolithic but consists of a multitude of parts, each with its own sectoral or regional requirements. We intend to be sensitive to those specific needs and to tailor policies to fit them.

That is the approach reflected in the Speech from the Throne in its emphasis on developing regional strengths such as tourism, shipbuilding, fisheries, grain transportation, and northern mining, and in its commitment to stimulate the housing industry through tax credits for mortgage interest and property taxes and to provide new incentives for small and medium-sized enterprises. Those programs will create jobs, jobs which are stable because they are founded on inherent economic strengths.

[*Translation*]

The same objective—creating specific programs to meet specific economic requirements—served as a basis for the implementation of our other job creation programs. I am sure all members welcome the fact that in September the rate of unemployment was down for the seventh time in as many months. But we all know that this improvement is not shared by all Canadians, the rate of unemployment for women is still 2 per cent higher than that for men, more than 12 per cent of Canadians under 25 are unemployed which is nearly double the national rate. Although no official statistics are available in the case of natives we know for a fact that the rate of unemployment in that group is much higher than in others.

We intend to grapple with those problems. I will present the House with an employment strategy for women based on the principle that women have an undeniable right to participate equally in all sectors of the economy. That strategy will include steps to reduce occupational segregation through better training programs and contractual clauses that will recognize the women's responsibilities concerning the children and will increase the opportunities made available precisely to them under economic expansion programs.

In addition, our programs will underline the significant part played by the government which will become a leader in this area with the introduction of specific employment policies.

Still in that vein, we intend to set up a youth employment secretariat to co-ordinate and plan programs making training and job opportunities available to young Canadians. We will be reviewing the job tax credit program to promote on the job training for young people who do not have all the necessary skills and we will be introducing a better program to encourage young Canadians to serve their communities.

● (1640)

[*English*]

Sir, in seeking to broaden economic opportunities available to native Canadians, the government supports the growing