

will make that decision with despatch. We will rise to the occasion with despatch, with action similar to that which we have been demonstrating on all of the issues we have been faced with, in a true democratic manner.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Debate. The Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy).

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, it was interesting to watch representatives of the two old line parties in the House of Commons talk about the leadership crisis which faces the country. Unfortunately, Hon. Members of both Parties talked about individuals, whether the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was more hated or whether the combination of leadership hopefuls in the Tory Party represent any particular direction, and so on. What they missed out on was something much more important. It is not a matter of personality or Gallup polls. It is not a matter of how a Party deposes or imposes a leader what is really important is that this country does not have any economic leadership at all. When a motion is put before us by the Conservative Party I believe that is what the debate should be about. A Throne Speech is supposed to set the direction of the legislation, the budget, and other matters which will come before the House of Commons for debate, for discussion and in some cases for passage into legislation. What has happened in the three years and three or four days since we have had a Throne Speech is that this Liberal Government has wandered through our economic and political history.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Staggering is the word.

**Mr. Murphy:** Yes, perhaps the Hon. Member to my right is correct. Perhaps "staggered" is a much better word for describing the way this Government has led this country. Canadians, regardless of where they live in this country, do not have any trust or faith in the ability of this Government. They have no knowledge or idea of where this Government intends to take Canada.

The Throne Speech to which the Member referred, the speech which was made over three years ago, talked about strengthening the foreign Investment Review Agency. It talked about decreasing the deficit. It talked about decreasing unemployment. It talked about affirmative action programs. It talked about pension reform. It talked about a number of things, Mr. Speaker, and yet Government has not acted. It has had three years to fulfil its own self-imposed mandate. It has had three years to deliver the legislation, to deliver budgets, to deliver action in this House of Commons which would put forth the programs it promised. This Throne Speech was not something which was imposed upon the Government. This Throne Speech of April 14, 1980, was a speech written by the Prime Minister, his Cabinet and his aides. It was a direction which this Government promised the country, a promise which it broke, Mr. Speaker. Pensioners were promised pension reform, they did not get it. Women, the handicapped and the natives were promised affirmative action. They did not get it. Those who were unemployed were promised jobs. Those who were concerned about the deficit were promised that it would

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be reduced. Member after member of the Liberal Party has risen this afternoon to defend the Government's record on these issues, saying that it was the Opposition that filibustered or that the economic times have changed. They had a number of excuses, a litany of excuses as to why the Government has failed. Those charges by Government Members are simply not substantiated.

• (1700)

In many of the areas of the Throne Speech, the Government has not even introduced legislation or put forward any proposals. It has come back and said "the Opposition would not let us do it". To say that the Opposition somehow prevented the Government from passing legislation is simply not true. The Government did not even have the legislation to present to us or any plans with regard to affirmative action to keep the promises it had made.

Therefore, I would argue that since the Government cannot bring forward actions on the Throne Speech which it promised three year's ago, that Throne Speech is somehow invalid. It is up to the Government to come forward with a new program, a new platform as to what it wishes to present to the House of Commons. Right now we know that the Throne Speech which started this session is really not in play. It does not contain the proposals which the Government will work on.

We know, for example, concerning the Foreign Investment Review Agency, that it has gone in the exact opposite direction. During Question Period the Liberals have admitted that with regard to unemployment they really will not do very much. Therefore, they will not keep the promises they made in the Throne Speech.

Canadians inside and outside the House of Commons are really suffering from that lack of leadership by the Government. I would join others in the House in saying that it is time for a Throne Speech. It is time for the Government to give us an indication as to what direction it wishes to follow. It is time for Canadians to know whether the Government has a plan, any goals for the country, or any objectives so that Canadians in Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairies, B.C. or the Northwest and Yukon Territories can know whether there are any regional development plans or whether the Government is concerned about their issues. Canadians deserve that.

However, what Canadians do not deserve is another Throne Speech which is as false as the Throne Speech we heard three years ago. We need a Throne Speech, we need the legislation which results from a Throne Speech, and we need Government action through budgets and through other economic measures which will meet the needs of Canadians. We want a Throne Speech which will be followed by the Government. We want one which will clearly establish where the Government wants to take the country, and we want ensuing legislation to follow the same direction.

I attended a conference in Flin Flon, Manitoba, held by the Flin Flon Crisis Group. It was basically for women and others concerned about the plight of women in our society. I spoke of