

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

Royal Canadian Mounted Police patrols and administers justice in these regions on land and ice, in the air and in the water. The Canadian Armed Forces carry out continuous surveillance activities; Canadian postal services, health services and communications networks criss-cross these territories to serve those who live and work there. Among these persons are the Canadian Eskimos, who pursue their food and conduct their activities over the icy wastes without heed to whether that ice is supported by land or by water. In all these activities, and in others, ranging from geophysical explorations to the distribution of family allowance cheques, Arctic North America has, for 450 years, progressively become the Canadian Arctic.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Trudeau: Hon. members know that there is not now, nor is it conceivable that there will ever be, from any source, challenges to Canadian sovereignty on the mainland, in the islands, in the minerals lying in the continental shelf below the Arctic waters, or in our territorial seas. This happy situation is the result of quiet, consistent policies in the past on the part of all Canadian governments. The present government pledges to be equally consistent. Those policies will reflect Canada's proper interest not only in the preservation of the ecological balance which I have already mentioned, but as well in the economic development of the north, the security of Canada, and in our stature and reputation in the world community.

● (2:40 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

May I say again, Mr. Speaker, that the government is highly interested in what it considers to be the two most valuable assets of Canada: its human resources and its natural resources. The government faces every problem in terms of the administration and development of those resources. Our actions as well as our failings, during this mandate, will, I hope, be assessed in that light. I invite the hon. members to study the present legislative program in the same spirit.

I extend that invitation because I realize that daily decisions concerning immediate problems may often seem unpopular. It is inevitable, that, in a country as huge as Canada, with such varied interests as ours, Canadians should not always agree on what conclusions are reached, solutions are

[Mr. Trudeau.]

proposed or priorities are established. Nevertheless, those conclusions, those solutions and those priorities will always, this I promise, be in harmony, over the long term, with certain principles.

First of all, we will never sacrifice, in the name of progress, a clean and healthy environment to industrial or commercial development.

Secondly, we will never allow, in the name of efficiency or social welfare, an omnipresent government to substitute itself to the right to privacy or to any other individual freedom.

Thirdly, we will not allow, in the name of freedom of speech, sectarianism to replace tolerance; violence, dialogue; discrimination, moderation.

Mr. Speaker, these principles should hardly give rise to a debate in the house. They are so self-evident that they are not likely to arouse interest. Paradoxically, however, it is precisely for this reason that they require constant attention on our part.

Clean environment, respect for privacy, tolerant attitudes, these are things that Canadians have long taken for granted as being a natural aspect of the happiness of living here. And yet, we run the risk of squandering our wealth if we do not take care of it. Often unknown to ourselves, we yield before the temptation of abuse. I would like to sum up what the government plans to do in order to goad the conscience of our citizens in these areas and what measures are needed to correct the habits of the past.

We intend to tackle the problem of environment, not only in the Northern regions but everywhere in Canada, by directing our efforts mainly to the two major sources of pollution: urbanization and the invasion of modern technology.

Urbanization is not by itself prejudicial to the environment, but inadequate planning and mismanagement may lead, in this respect, to disastrous results, such as unhealthy habitat, in particular. This government is fully aware of the costs and burdens that society bears at the present time for not having, in the past, succeeded in gradually solving the problems inherent to urban expansion. We pledge to remove these difficulties and to find solutions to these problems. The proposed amendments to the National Housing Act are another step in this direction.

The accelerated growth of our cities is not a transitory phenomenon, likely to disappear