

[English]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed from Wednesday, April 5, consideration of the motion of Mr. Richardson for an address to Her Excellency the Governor General in reply to her speech at the opening of the Session; and the amendment thereto of Mr. Turner, Vancouver Quadra (p. 131) and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Broadbent (p. 140).

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the people of Canada have again entrusted to the Progressive Conservative Party the leadership of their Government. They have given us a full mandate to govern and we intend to do so firmly, effectively and well on behalf of all Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: This week, as in 1984 and again in 1986, the Speech from the Throne was laid before Parliament and it contained our vision of Canada's future. As before, we have set ourselves a task I think appropriate to the times. Our agenda in the first mandate was ambitious. Canada was at that time feeling the winds of change. It needed a program to channel its energy and chart its course, and that, with the imperfections that result in a democratic institution from governing, is what we tried to do and in large measure I believe that is what we accomplished.

Now in 1989 Canada once more looks to the future and we do so with great anticipation. The Government's vision for this mandate builds on the achievements of the first. It is a big vision for a big country, a challenge to a land of limitless promise.

The Address—Right. Hon. Brian Mulroney

[Translation]

And, as the election made clear, it is a vision shared by Francophones and Anglophones, by men and women, by the first Canadians and by the newest Canadians, by farmers and fishermen, labourers and professionals, by Canadians from all walks of life and all regions who told the Canadian Government: Go right ahead! We support your program for economic recovery and national reconciliation. You did a good job during your first mandate, so let's see you do it again for a second one!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mulroney: It is a vision of a flourishing land, respected abroad, competitive in commerce, caring and compassionate at home, a land tolerant of differences, conscious of its responsibilities, above all to its natural heritage, and united in the uniqueness of its traditions. It is a vision for a nation that is open to the world and to the opportunities this openness presents. It is a vision for a nation that expects its government to govern, and to be willing to make the difficult decisions that are sometimes necessary. Our nation understands that its continued prosperity is not assured without wisdom in setting public policy. Our potential can be realized if we rely on our strengths, to build and create, and earn what we wish to enjoy.

Our government came to office in September of 1984, following a period of great economic difficulty and internal division that was painful for all Canadians. Federal-Provincial relations were marked by confrontation. The Constitution had been repatriated without the agreement of the government of Quebec. Western provinces deeply resented the government of Canada's unilateral interventions in the energy field. The Atlantic provinces were frustrated with the government's approach to offshore energy management, and with the lack of progress in regional economic development. The economy was weak, with excessively high inflation and unemployment rates.

• (1120)

[English]

Perversely, Mr. Speaker, federal Government policies acted as obstacles to economic recovery, both by inhibiting investment and over-regulating the private sector. The federal Government's own fiscal situation represented a fundamental impediment to sustained economic prosperity. In fact, by 1984 the federal deficit was at an unprecedented level and growing at a rate which was unsustainable and would ultimately ruin us.