

*The Address*

**Mr. Simmons:** I take it back. He did not read his speech well. I am sorry for saying that.

The point I make is that when he gave his speech he was very forthright about how we ought not to be partisan. Now, as soon as I make a point with which he disagrees, he says: "the basic difference between us is that we are on this side, therefore we are smart, and you are on that side therefore—"

That is the very man who 10 minutes ago was repeating to us not to be partisan. I interjected the point for him that maybe what he ought to think about was not being petty. He did not hear my plea but got up immediately and started being petty.

We are the people, in his words, who do not have the courage, who sit on that side of the House, and all that kind of nonsense. Where is my evangelist now? Where is the man who appealed to me 15 minutes ago not to be petty and partisan? Physician heal thyself, heal thyself. Listen to your own words.

How about yesterday? He asks if I want to go by yesterday's formulas. No, he is dead on. I do not want to. But I appeal to him first not to rewrite yesterday's history.

He and his party have perpetrated the idea that somehow the government of which I was a supporter at the time had shut out Quebec back in 1982. He knows in all honesty that the late gentleman who was then the premier of Quebec was a separatist and he was not going to sign anything. He knows that the people of Quebec were represented here very well by 74 government members and by 8 or 10 members in cabinet.

He wants to talk about yesterday, this nonsense, this rewriting of history, that somehow the people of Canada and the other nine provinces ganged up. What they did was try to deal as best they could with a premier who had no intention at that time of signing anything.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, don't take my word for it. Take the word of the gentleman from Baie Comeau who is now the leader of this government, the leader of this gentleman's party, who immediately after the events of 1982 actually went to the trouble of congratulating the then Prime Minister, Mr. Trudeau, publicly for the way in which he had patriated the Constitution and brought in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

I thought that was a marvellous gesture on the part of the member from Baie Comeau at the time. I wish now he would have the intellectual honesty to own up to what he did nine years ago instead of rewriting history all the time.

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I am quite pleased to rise and speak to the Speech from the Throne. I would like to use that as a backdrop to the remarks I want to make.

In his opening remarks the Prime Minister, through the Right Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn, our Governor General, stated that:

This session will be a turning point in Canadian history. Let no one doubt the seriousness of the challenges we face as a country.

He felt that we had the responsibility and the opportunity to forge an historic accommodation that embraces all Canadians, overcomes divisions and discord, and charts a course for prosperity for the generations to come.

Then the Speech from the Throne continues and says in effect after a few other remarks:

We have been confided the stewardship of this great nation, constructed across an entire continent by generations of men and women determined to make a home for themselves and a future for their children.

There are some things that this government has constructed that in terms of a future for their children have been put much in jeopardy by what I consider to be poorly founded policies on the part of the government opposite.

If this government had not been found wanting in so many areas from an economic perspective, from a social perspective, from an infrastructure perspective, from the kinds of motors of the economy which it has sold off and privatized in a way that has not been helpful to this country, to say nothing of the GST, the free trade and a few other things, I would go into detail in respect to these matters. However, I do believe that before we address the other issues we must address Canadian unity, because without a sense of Canadian unity, a sense of a country that is solid and comfortable with itself, we cannot fundamentally address the other issues, those are the economic ones which can effectively help this country.

The other point that was made in the throne speech is that Canada's history is the history of builders and achievers. Around the world, we all know that we are