

*The Address—Mr. G. Scott*

● (1550)

**Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth):** Mr. Speaker, just a brief comment to the Minister who says that we on this side show a distinct silence and lack of interest in issues involving women—

[Translation]

I hope the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mrs. Erola) will stay for a few minutes and listen to my remarks because they bear precisely on women's interests.

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert):** I must remind the Hon. Member that I recognized him for debate. He has 20 minutes to speak.

**Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth):** Mr. Speaker, this is truly a first for me. Like many of my colleagues in this House, I have spoken and performed on hundreds of platforms over the years. Indeed, I have risen in my place in this Chamber on a number of occasions, but this is the first time since I signed "- 30 -" to my journalistic career exactly six years ago today to enter the political arena, that I have had the honour to speak on behalf of the people of Hamilton-Wentworth in a Throne Speech debate.

This is a special honour, Mr. Speaker, because during the traditional Throne Speech debate a Member of Parliament has time to reflect on those issues which he or she feels are important matters, any matter of concern to his or her constituents. I want to use my allotted time to comment on three areas which are mentioned in the Speech from the Throne: The peace initiative launched by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau); the equally important if not more important problem that we face here in Canada, namely the unemployment crisis; finally, I want to deal with the most critical issue which affects me as a communications critic for the Official Opposition, namely the terribly damaging spread of pornography in this country. That is an appropriate topic, I think, following the speech just made by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mrs. Erola).

Before proceeding further, Mr. Speaker, allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your well deserved elevation to the Chair. I have also had a chance to extend informally a personal welcome to the distinguished Hon. Member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis), and I would like to wish Mr. Speaker well in what I suspect are going to be a few turbulent weeks and months ahead.

While I am in a somewhat benevolent mood let me begin by being as charitable as I possibly can about our Prime Minister. I have always applauded the Prime Minister's peace initiative. I think I can speak on behalf of every single one of my constituents in Hamilton-Wentworth when I say that we want to see peace, we want to see the superpowers brought to the negotiating table, we want to see a dismantling of these horrible nuclear weapons on both sides, provided that weapons reduction is provable and verifiable on both sides. In short, we

on this side wish the Prime Minister well in his globe trotting to ease world tensions. We think that is wonderful.

The only thing that concerns me, Mr. Speaker, is that our Prime Minister appears to be rather like a fly buzzing between two elephants; he is annoying them, getting some attention, but he is really not accomplishing much. Some observers, such as the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark), suggest that Canadians remain a wee bit skeptical about the Prime Minister's peace mission. Well, I do not want to be skeptical. I hope we do not have to be skeptical, but some do suggest that the Prime Minister's advisers are trying to get more domestic mileage out of the international mileage by our Prime Minister than serious international co-operation. Some of these skeptics recall the Prime Minister's brief and not terribly spectacular sojourn into the North-South dialogue a year ago. I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Prime Minister's latest venture behind the Iron Curtain becomes somewhat more useful and honourable than domestic political window-dressing. When I use the word "domestic", I include the headquarters of the United Nations in New York City. Since I first broke the story a few years ago from a reliable source at the UN and was scoffed at, I have been hearing increasing confirmation that Canada's Prime Minister is courting eastern European and Third World nations and definitely could be in line to become Secretary General of the United Nations. If he can bring the superpowers to the bargaining table, if he can convince his world-wide contacts that he really does mean peace and not at the expense of democracy, then I wish him well.

I now want to come back down to earth from those rarified heights to which the Prime Minister is so accustomed. There are some good programs enunciated in the Speech from the Throne and we can support them, but the public is skeptical and cynical about some of these back-to-work programs, and with good reason. Let me give you an example. The Environment 2000 project was to assist young people to do things such as planting trees, but no one checked on the availability of seedlings; there are not enough for the program. There are also darn few places to plant them, as it turns out, particularly during the winter months.

My constituents in Hamilton-Wentworth want to be productive. They want jobs which will contribute to the well-being and growth of this country. They know that when times are tough people will hurt. They do not want handouts, however. They want real work. They are also telling me, as recently as yesterday in a call I received from a lady whose husband owns a small crane firm, that if they and other small businesses were left alone and not controlled by dictatorial union bosses, they might survive. What are they faced with? What are these free-enterprise minded people, be they crane operators, farmers, whoever—what are they faced with? They are faced with an unconcerned and misdirected Government which is more concerned with porkbarrel politics than real jobs and real opportunities. It boggles the mind.

I am paraphrasing what the Leader of the Opposition said at the beginning of this Throne Speech debate, but the essence