

*The Address—Mr. Edwards*

I am mindful, Mr. Speaker, of the great privilege, wrung from history and paid for by the sacrifices of our ancestors, which permits me to rise today to reflect the views of Edmonton South to this great and free House. In doing so I acknowledge those who were instrumental in bringing me here; the 34,000 voters from Edmonton South who cast ballots in my favour; those thousands and more who gave up their time, their treasure and their shoe leather in supporting me in the campaign; my wonderful family who grew beyond their own expectations in the long and enervating battle for nomination and election; and, finally, the magnificent national team effort of my Party, spurred on and encouraged by the team of two. No one worked harder than our Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and that gracious lady who captivated all of us. It was my pleasant duty in the month of July to introduce Mrs. Mulroney table-by-table to a gathering of some 3,000 people from Edmonton and its surrounding area. That, in its way, was a whole lot more fun than even being elected two months later.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to some of the issues addressed by Her Excellency the Governor General in the Speech from the Throne. I would like to examine how those issues are viewed by the people of Edmonton South. Before doing so, I wish to congratulate the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. James) and the Hon. Member for Montreal-Mercier (Ms. Jacques) for the high tone they have set for this debate.

Edmonton South was at its physical best during the long hot summer of 1984. More than half of its residents owned their own single-family dwellings, and the flower gardens and immaculate lawns reflected the pride of property which is an indispensable Alberta characteristic. Here and there, though, there was the intrusion of a sour note, such as where a house had been abandoned because of inability to meet the payments, and where four able sons of one family, each with his own trade, could not find work, and this happened for the first time in five generations of this family in this country. Entrepreneurs, successful over the past two decades, have one foot into the United States, looking for opportunity.

Edmonton South is not a large riding. It is a totally urban riding of 67 square kilometers. The estimated population of 109,000 people is a microcosm of urban western Canada. Almost half of the population are between the ages of 18 and 44 years. Fully 36 per cent of those employed work as professionals or semi-professionals. In Edmonton South lives much of Edmonton's academic, political, financial, cultural, and business leadership. Also in Edmonton South live pensioners, war veterans and our share of the unemployed and the system-ic poor.

The major distinguishing characteristic of the riding of Edmonton South is the presence of Canada's second largest university, the University of Alberta, with an undergraduate enrollment of over 24,000 this year. The University of Alberta, with 19 faculties and close to 90 departments, is internationally known for its education faculty which is the largest in Canada. Other academic strengths include engineering, agriculture and computer sciences. Distinguished graduates

include three members of the current Cabinet and two of our provincial Premiers. Founded in 1908 and dedicated to the pursuit of "whatsoever things are true", the University of Alberta has left its mark in Edmonton and in the Province of Alberta. Nowhere in the West, perhaps nowhere in a city of its size in Canada, do the arts flourish more surely than in Edmonton.

On September 4, Mr. Speaker, the people of Canada called for a new will to succeed, a fresh start for this nation. In so doing, they imposed upon all of us in this House a formidable burden of expectation. During the next six months the way will be shown toward the rebuilding of our lives and the recovery of our sense of national mission.

During the recent electoral campaign, I was saddened and shocked by the number of well educated, well-meaning citizens who had lost faith with the political process. This has been partly in reaction to a generation of misrule and partly as a result of a genuine aversion to how the system was going. They said, "It does not matter if I vote, you are all the same", or "You may be a good man now, but you will be corrupted, co-opted or commanded once you get there". What should the response be, Mr. Speaker? We have been given part of the answer: a parliamentary task force in reform of this House. I applaud that decision and congratulate the Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) on his appointment to head that task force.

Speaking as a westerner, I hope that the second phase of the answer is not too far away; the beginning of the long and arduous process toward an elected, effective Senate, equal in representation province to province.

Her Excellency informed us that her Government has, as a key objective, to make government more understandable, more accessible and more sensitive. Partisan considerations aside, such a move can only be welcomed by all Hon. Members, if only because Ottawa has become the personification of the misunderstood, the inaccessible and the insensitive, even the alien and the threatening.

One legacy of the past with which we will have to contend on an urgent basis is the tendency toward policy making on the part of Crown agencies and quasi-judicial bodies. An example is in the field of radio and television broadcasting, an industry in which I have spent 29 years of my life. Here we have the spectacle of the very tribunal which licensed broadcasting stations to serve certain territories now proposing to admit to those territories many other stations—so-called super stations—by way of local cable systems. It is as if one had paid for a mining claim, scabbled for years to make it pay and deliver some kind of a profit, and in the process deliver a much needed commodity, only to be told that that mining claim would have to be shared with Noranda, Denison and, perhaps, Inco. This move is in process of being made now by bureaucratic fist. It will change forever the nature of information delivery in this country.

We are informed, Mr. Speaker, that the Ministry will breathe a new spirit into federalism. I have had the benefit