

second, the Hon. Member for Montreal-Mercier (Mrs. Jacques), who gave a very strong speech, particularly in light of the fact that she is, I believe, the youngest Member of this House.

In replying to the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, and in addressing this House for the first time in this Parliament, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of New Westminster-Coquitlam for returning me to this place and honouring me with their trust and support. I am honoured and proud to continue to serve them.

During the recent election campaign, promises were made by all Parties. We, on our side, promised to represent and fight for the ordinary people of Canada, to fight for fair taxes, equality for women, the preservation of social services, disarmament and peace. We are living up to our promises.

What can we say of the Conservatives and their promises and the way they have lived up to them? Campaigning this summer, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said that universal social services for Canada were "a sacred trust that would be maintained by a Conservative Government". Only weeks later we see this Government moving to negotiate and, perhaps, abandon this sacred trust.

The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald), while speaking in my riding during the election campaign, told pensioners that fears that the Conservatives would cut social services was "a lot of garbage" and "over my dead body would they cut them". Dead body or not, it is that Minister who is responsible for a lot of garbage as we see Tory plans for cuts to social services and cuts in her own department now unfolding.

What of fair taxes? During a televised debate with the other two Party leaders, the Prime Minister promised to move to ensure that the wealthiest Canadians, many of whom pay no income tax, would pay tax and "would pay handsomely". We see no promise of that in the Throne Speech, nor indeed in the economic statement of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) the other evening.

The Tory list of deception and broken promises is already long, but nowhere is it more shameful than in the broken promises to Canadian women. An early promise by the Prime Minister for contract compliance to achieve affirmative action in firms doing business with the federal Government has been reneged on. Canadian women are still waiting to be paid equally for work of equal value. They are still waiting for increased pensions and for growth and funding in child care. One might argue that all Parties, particularly those which hope to form a government, make a lot of promises which they cannot then keep. However, one cannot accept that something which is a sacred trust one day becomes expendable the next day. What that does, Mr. Speaker, and what causes us the most concern, is this. Far from engendering confidence in Canadian society, the kind of confidence which this Government is talking about engendering, it breeds cynicism. How can the Canadian electorate take a government seriously when on one day it says universality is a sacred trust, and the next day that it is negotiable?

The Address—Ms. Jewett

● (1510)

On jobs, Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives' deception has been thoroughly addressed by my Leader and other Members of my Party in their remarks. With grand claims to put thousands and thousands of Canadians back to work, to create new jobs and new prosperity, the Conservatives won the support of many Canadians. The Throne Speech gave no substance to these promises and the Minister of Finance buried them unceremoniously last week. The true Tory job policy is really 19th century free market economics.

Mr. Benjamin: Make that 18th century.

Ms. Jewett: No, not quite. The famous large-scale monopoly private sector will take care of job creation, just as the Iron Ore Company of Canada has taken care of job creation in Schefferville, and just as B.C. Packers is taking care of jobs on the West Coast.

Now, the kind of initiative the Government could take, and which we have been urging it to take, the kind of initiative the people of Canada expect from their government, could be both direct and indirect support for the forest industry, to take a very important example, and particularly the forest industry in British Columbia. I would like to give one example of the tragedy that is taking place in this industry and in the industries that serve it.

A New Westminster-based supplier of pulp and paper machinery, Lamb-Cargate Industries, a recent casualty of this Government's high interest rate policy, is a key manufacturing industry not only in my riding but in the province and in the country. It is being prevented from competing in our own domestic markets by the high interest rate policy of this Government. Foreign pulp and paper machine manufacturers benefiting from lower interest rates in their own countries, indeed in some cases subsidized interest rates, are winning manufacturing contracts in our own province and country. Lower interest rates, assistance to the forest industry, and real national economic planning, Mr. Speaker, are what Canadians need and expect from the federal Government.

In this Parliament I am proud to continue to speak for my Party on external affairs in general and on Canada's nuclear disarmament and international development assistance policies in particular. I am concerned, indeed alarmed, at the emerging shape of the Government's foreign policy.

Before I address those concerns, let me point out that there are some things upon which all Parties in this House agree. Such unanimity is felt at the time of great loss. The sad and untimely death of Indira Gandhi, the outstanding woman in politics in our time and the leader of the world's largest democracy, is a loss not only to the Indian people; in all corners of this House we share that loss. We are concerned as well with the continuing violence in India, and we have had many moderate members of the Sikh community in this country talk to us about that violence. I would hope that all of us, many of us having East Indian and Sikh constituents, would agree that what is needed is a fact-finding mission on