

The Address—Mrs. Browes

I have spoken today of the riding I represent, Scarborough Centre, its people and the ways in which the Throne Speech relates to them. I have also described in some detail my interest in health care issues. Permit me now to speak in more personal terms; first, of a certain former Member of Parliament; secondly, the Leader of my Party; and thirdly, my commitment at the start of this Thirty-third Parliament of Canada.

On March 4, 1948, the following words were spoken in this House:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to take part in this debate, realizing that it has been some length of time since it was begun. First, I should like to join with other hon. members in expressing my congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I have listened to the various speakers who have taken part in the debate, and it has been somewhat of an education to me to learn something more about this great country which we are pleased to call Canada.

The occasion, Mr. Speaker, was the Throne Speech debate during Canada's Twentieth Parliament. The speaker was my father—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Browes: —the late Major Robert Earl Drope, the Member of Parliament for the riding of Northumberland, Ontario. Perhaps my fellow members can understand the feelings within me at this moment, to hear his words echo once more off the stone walls and the high ceilings of this House of Commons. The sentiments I express for my father are profound and very special. Those I hold for my mother are equally precious since she still lives, proud and strong, in the century old family home on a farm near Rice Lake in Northumberland riding in Ontario.

I take my place in Parliament, Mr. Speaker, knowing that it is due in some large part to the efforts of a man who once was very close to his father, that being the Right Hon. Prime Minister. It was the Prime Minister who earned the collective confidence of the people of Canada during the election campaign, and it was on a hot, sunny afternoon last July that he earned the confidence of the people of Scarborough Centre. When the Prime Minister attended our riding's annual summer picnic and barbecue, he touched all the people of Scarborough Centre. He spoke with sincerity because he is a self-made man whose humble roots allow him to understand the plight of the elderly and the disadvantaged. He spoke with confidence because he is a proud Canadian who believes in the potential of our nation and the spirit of its people. Our Prime Minister spoke with determination because he is a leader of a political party and now Leader of the Government with the people, the ideas and the policies to bring about a new beginning for Canada.

As a Member of Parliament in the new government I look ahead to fulfilling the mandate given us by the people of Canada, especially those in Scarborough Centre. It is an honest mandate, earned by the dedication of hundreds of campaign volunteers and sealed by the oath of office I took as a private member.

I am proud of my family roots in rural Ontario, Mr. Speaker. I am proud of my life in Scarborough with over 25 years of participation in issues of education, public accounts, health and housing. I accept the challenges which await me in the months and years ahead and I am eager to serve the people of Canada.

● (1240)

In summary, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that when people ask if the Government truly will accomplish the goals it has set, I declare: Absolutely, it will.

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, it is, of course, customary in the House to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Speech from the Throne, to congratulate the newcomers and those who make their first intervention, such as the hon. lady who just spoke, and to wish the new Members well as they cross the threshold of the Thirty-third Parliament.

It is also natural that we resume debate on the Speech from the Throne and attempt to find the thread which in a way we lost yesterday as a result of switching the order of debate and having to witness last night a presentation which has deeply disturbed us on this side of the House. I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that people in my riding and across the country, at this stage of debate on the Speech from the Throne, are beginning to wonder about the theme of consultation which emerged so strongly in the Speech just a few days ago, as read in the Senate by Her Excellency the Governor General.

It took only a few days, until last night, to make us realize that the theme of consultation is really one that is proposed but not practised by the Government. Last night the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) announced a series of decisions which will result in the elimination of jobs estimated by some to amount to over 100,000 and perhaps as high as 127,000. Among the programs or initiatives and projects which are going to be wiped out is, for example, Summer Canada. This was announced on the very same day that the Canadian Federation of Students was here in Ottawa speaking to the caucuses and representatives of the three Parties, probably wanting to ensure that next summer there would be a job opportunity program for them.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, did the Government consult the students before cancelling Summer Canada? To whom will they turn next summer for a job in the absence of this program? Will they go to Loblaws, to Canadian Tire or to the oil companies to find a summer job? Where will they find the jobs upon which they rely in order to finance their studies in the following year? Consultation was promised in the Speech from the Throne. Was it carried out with the students in relation to Summer Canada?

Last night we learned about the cancellation of a number of projects, research centres and initiatives across the country which would have resulted in construction projects. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, were the unions and the construction associations