

and to relate face to face. The Prime Minister's announced intention to set up a select committee to study volunteerism in Canada is therefore welcome.

It is my belief that one of the major challenges to be faced by the new government will be to get our economy moving again. Canada's potential is limitless. We have the people, we have the resources. What we need is the will. We need to restore our confidence in ourselves. These are qualities the present government will foster. Our government will be an example for Canadians to follow. It will not be a case of substituting "Do as I say" for "Do as I do". A promise was made to privatize certain Crown corporations. That promise will be kept and those corporations will be returned to the private sector where the profit motive is not an alien principle.

The greatest wish of most Canadians is to own their own homes. The promise was made that aid would be forthcoming so that for many this dream could become reality. That promise, too, has been kept.

The promise was made that no longer would civil servants or cabinet ministers be able to hide behind a web of secrecy; no longer could those in positions of influence escape responsibility for their actions and decisions. A freedom of information law is to be enacted as promised with an outside arbiter to decide disputed matters. This will make Parliament more accountable to the people and less a system of divine right of cabinet. Parliament will be strengthened and thus improved. The imperial cabinet will become a thing of the past and our government, by its solicitous attitude toward those who are disadvantaged, will also be an example to the people of Canada. In spite of our determination to improve our economy and to cut back government expenditure, we shall not practice restraint on the backs of those who are truly in need and who, by reason of disability, of age or traditional barriers, have been kept from realizing their full potential and denied the opportunity to benefit from the riches of Canada. We shall not forget or neglect these people.

● (1740)

Those of us who are strong can only be diminished if we do not give proper regard to those in our society who are less strong. For we have not forgotten that we are Progressive Conservatives, and our attitude to social programs and to those who will benefit from social programs will be enlightened and compassionate.

I have already said that indeed it is an honour to move the address in reply. It is also an honour and a privilege to be a member of a team which will have a positive impact on Canada.

I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Cardigan (Mr. MacDonald), that the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Edward Richard Schreyer, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, Chancellor and Commander of the Order of Military Merit, upon whom has been conferred the Canadian Forces' Decoration, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

The Address—Mr. W. MacDonald

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilbur MacDonald (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour to be here on this occasion and to be afforded the opportunity to second the motion for the address in reply. I wish to thank the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) and his cabinet for their courtesy in asking me to have this share in the opening of the Thirty-first Parliament. It is certainly an historic occasion for me, for my family and for the people of my constituency of Cardigan.

As we approach the dawn of the next decade this Parliament is confronted with challenging economic and social problems. The Speech from the Throne has indicated that this House will be asked to seek solutions to a wide variety of these. As I listened to the Speech from the Throne I could not help but realize that many subjects, such as fisheries, energy, transportation and regional economic expansion, are important to Canada as a whole but especially important to the constituency of Cardigan.

In area, Cardigan takes in the eastern part of Prince Edward Island, and all but one of its boundaries border on the sea. My constituents include farmers, fishermen, small business people, housewives, labourers, professional people, young and old alike, all hardworking Canadians with strong Christian values and a no-nonsense approach to their jobs.

As a farmer I share this no-nonsense approach to my job in Parliament. One of my tasks and, I suggest, one of the problems confronting this Parliament, will be to end the exodus of young rural Canadians from family farms. The family farm must remain the cornerstone of our agricultural industry in Canada. In this country and in my riding there are men and women willing to work long hours and a full week on their farms. All they ask is a fair return for their labour, fair prices for their produce and a chance to have their children follow in their footsteps.

However, if we continue to import food which our farmers could be producing economically and if we continue to let our small family farms slip needlessly into corporate hands, we will be undermining one of Canada's greatest strengths, its agricultural industry. We have the land. We now have the farmers. Let us see that they get fair prices for their products and a chance to pass their land on to their children. If this is done, we should never have a food crisis in this country, and we should be able to provide food to parts of the world which now have hungry and malnourished populations.

Another subject of special concern to my constituents is the need to create a fisheries policy which will permit fishermen to reap the full benefits of Canada's recently declared 200-mile limit. The key to this policy is intelligent management of the fishery resource. I believe that we in Prince Edward Island have a stake in the expansion of this important industry, and I am pleased that this Parliament will be working to create a