

Who can deny, Mr. Speaker, that these are darkening days? The smaller this world grows, the more it seems to fly apart. There are wars and rumours of war; hot wars, cold wars, bush wars, and economic wars. There is famine and hunger, disease and suffering, strife and turmoil. There is financial uncertainty bordering on chaos that could serve as the prelude to an awful worldwide depression with its untold misery. The threat of nuclear holocaust is constantly with us. It would seem, Mr. Speaker, that "the distress of nations" is upon us.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that primarily inflation is a moral and political problem. Have we in this House the imagination to see that it is a threat to the political, social, and moral character of our society? Do we not see that the confiscation of capital, income and savings that results from inflation provided some politicians and bureaucrats with the excuse to trespass into many areas of our lives, and curtail freedoms? Have we not perhaps now come to the point in our history where, in a very real sense, "democracy in deficit" is descriptive of both our economic plight and possibly of our political future, unless we are willing to act with courage and conviction to resolve our problems?

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a member of this Thirty-first Parliament and, in particular, of this new Progressive Conservative government that is facing up to these very real challenges. I trust that we all in this House perceive the need to work together, regardless of political party affiliation, to support the initiatives set out in the Speech from the Throne. We must work together, regardless of party affiliation, on the foreign policy review, on the basic reform of Parliament, and on ways to balance the budget. We must address the crucial moral issues at the heart of the human dilemma today—social justice at home and abroad, the right to life, the problem of inflation. We must come to grips with what we are all about as individuals and as a nation.

Our failure in the past as a society, and our failure specifically here in Parliament, has been to articulate our national goals and preserve our individual values in attaining them. It is this failure, Mr. Speaker, that has led to the broad sense of disillusionment amongst the Canadian people today.

I represent many Canadian people who wish to be governed by a righteous and God-fearing Parliament. As many hon. members may be aware, Christians all over Canada have been praying for each one of you personally in the hope that men and women of God would be making the laws of the land. Mr. Speaker, I believe we have a yardstick by which to measure our effectiveness. That measuring device is God's Word. We must search for a biblical basis for civil government.

As a professional economist and businessman I have said much, and I will say more at a later time, about the primary cause of our inflation, which is government itself. But, Mr. Speaker, as a Christian and as a concerned Canadian, I am convinced that not all of Canada's problems are economic. Many are moral and spiritual. Indeed, both the human spirit and the national soul may perhaps be more in need of repair than the federal budget.

#### *The Address—Mr. R. Richardson*

I believe the bible to be true, Mr. Speaker, when it states in second Chronicles 7:14 God's promise as follows:

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sins and will heal their lands.

What more do we need to encourage us, to motivate us, than to become active working together in the healing of our land? Mr. Speaker, I may sound like a voice crying in the wilderness, but I know for a fact that this Thirty-first Parliament has many others of like faith.

I am excited, Mr. Speaker, by much of what I have seen since the May 22 election, and I am very optimistic about our country's future because of the leadership I know will be given by hon. members in this "Parliament of Reconciliation." Our individual and national response to the desperate plight of the Vietnamese boat people, and the support received from hon. members on both sides of the House, is a very encouraging sign of what can be achieved by this Parliament as a positive witness to our fellow Canadians and to the world. Canadians have had enough of meanness and pettiness. What they want from us, Mr. Speaker, is leadership, and the true essence of leadership is service to others.

It is a fact that Canada, more than any other nation in the world, is blessed with abundant resources, good, hard working, and law abiding people, and a huge potential. As the Prime Minister has so properly said, "It is a time to build". I believe that in our Prime Minister we have an enlightened leader who has the courage of his convictions to uphold an unpopular stance in the name of the future good. He has given a positive indication in his response to the debate on the Speech from the Throne that we are and will continue to move firmly to correct those things which have been holding us back individually and collectively from meeting our God-given potential in this country. Although he would perhaps not use the same words as I, the Prime Minister has challenged us all, whether we be members of Parliament or individual Canadian citizens, to participate in this building of Canada with energy and skill; to stand fast in our faith; to fight the good fight; to be consistent in our good works, with love and understanding—"like the yeast that leavens the loaf and raises the level of all it touches".

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". Mr. Speaker, what a tremendous transformation would occur if the golden rule were applied to politics and government. Can you imagine the change that would be wrought? No more political campaigns based on "victory at any price by any means"; no more dog-eat-dog tactics; no more under-the-table deals; no more false witness; no more ego trips for self-centred purposes. Where there is animosity, there would be love; where there is greed, there would be generosity and compassion. Patience would take the place of anger, and service would rise above self.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully recommend to this House that one small thing we might do to signal a new direction to the people of Canada would be to allow the general public to enter this chamber while we are conducting daily prayers. It would