

*Supply*

maritimes, our spectacular potential for hydroelectric development in Quebec and Labrador and in the Bay of Fundy—what industrialized nation would not envy Canada?

What people except Canadians can point to such abundant blessings, as we prepare to face the future and claim the twenty-first century as our own? Mr. Speaker, it is not just energy that provides us with unbridled opportunity. Our educated population, our vast arable lands, our unequalled fresh water resources, our unexcelled human resources of honest, hard-working people—with these and other aspects we have all the vital ingredients necessary for a real and lasting prosperity. All we need is the national will and the leadership to put all this to work for us.

There is one reason why Canada trails the western industrial nations in development, one reason why unemployment exceeds one million Canadians, one reason why the federal budget continues to skyrocket, and one reason for so much idle capacity in both our factories and our labour force. That reason is the mismanagement of our economy by this government.

Too often our extracted wealth is exported as raw materials, letting others manufacture the prosperity that rightfully belongs in Canada. We gain little when half of all goods purchased in Canada is made elsewhere from coal, oil, natural gas, wood or other materials extracted from our own reserves.

In these and other ways we have, over the past decade, the wasted years, turned our backs on the challenge of creating wealth. The legacy of this decade of experimentation has been a litany of economic problems. The cost of government has soared. Prices have exploded. Investment capital has either dried up or fled the country. Economic growth, the engine of jobs, has been stifled. In 1968, there were 375,000 Canadians out of work; in 1974, it was 500,000, and today, 1.25 million Canadians are looking for work and thousands of others in our school system will soon join the quest for employment.

The legacy of a government that has run out of ideas, lacked the imagination, the creativity and the courage to pursue innovation and encourage the free-enterprise system, has become an albatross around our necks. It is the tragic errors in judgment that have shackled the free-enterprise system, eroded our work ethic and dimmed our shining promise for tomorrow.

I believe that the free-enterprise system can deliver our incredible national potential. Within our vast borders lie tremendous forest and agricultural reserves—coal, iron, lead, uranium—indeed, most of the raw materials demanded by industrial growth. We have oil and natural gas and, more important, we have an abundance of fresh clean water—almost one third of the world's fresh water supply. We can be self-sustaining in food. In relation to our population, we have more arable land than any other nation, and we have not yet begun to farm the three oceans that wash our shores. And geography has situated us alongside the richest market in the world.

Today, with more than one third of the world's population about to embark on the industrial transition we have already gone through, the need for our expertise in developing large-

scale public works such as transit systems, water purification plants, electrification and waste treatment facilities, has never been greater. The Arabian states, countries in the Far East, and South America need our high technology, our skills and commerce, and our know-how in transportation, banking and insurance.

There is indeed a world market for Canadian skills and Canadian products, but it will never be reached with a preoccupied, inward-looking government that wrings its hands and says, "We have done all we can." We need new policies to demonstrate faith once again in our ingenuity and individual initiative. We can generate the economic activity that will enable us to be a compassionate nation.

By turning our economy around we can restructure our badly overworked tax system so that it deals fairly with lower and middle-income groups. We can then let the wives of farmers and working Canadians join the Canada Pension Plan. We can elevate the standard of living of our senior citizens who now live in poverty, and we can work to enable them to remain independent in their own homes as long as they are able to do so and to treat them with compassion and thoughtfulness when they are not.

A blueprint for the economic development and recovery of our nation will require a package of many things. Two of the most dynamic are an enlightened science policy and a modern transportation system which can enable us to produce our goods more efficiently and transport them to the markets of the world.

I have talked to Canadians who feel they have no future in their country. I have visited senior citizens who are waiting out their lives in empty idleness, and I have looked into the faces of our young people, our nation's greatest hope, and seen disillusionment and anger because their country has no place for them to work and their government gives them the impression that it has given up or that it does not care.

I do not lightly dismiss the difficulty of leading the economic recovery of our nation, but these are not normal times and Canada is not an ordinary country.

At the bottom of the Great Depression, before he lit the light of hope in the United States, President Roosevelt said, "The only thing Americans have to fear is fear itself". He referred to an attitude that was prevalent in his country and an attitude that is growing now in ours.

We must recognize that the quality of government and its attitudes, as well as policies, can be either a serious deterrent or a major contributor to technological and industrial development with their intended social pluses and minuses. It is therefore the responsibility of government to set challenging yet reasonable economic, social and national objectives leading to a scientific, technological and industrial policy, and energetically and consistently to support and encourage all aspects of that policy. A national objective supported by tax and investment policy should be set to match and eventually surpass those declared goals of competitive advanced nations