



NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS BY
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PREMIER OF ONTARIO

TO
THE CANADIAN CLUB
ROYAL YORK HOTEL, TORONTO

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1978

IT IS, INDEED, AN HONOUR AND A PRIVILEGE TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CANADIAN CLUB.

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, AT LEAST, THIS IS A VERY TIMELY OCCASION, AS WELL. NEXT WEEK, I WILL BE ATTENDING A CONFERENCE OF FIRST MINISTERS IN OTTAWA AND I ANTICIPATE IT WILL BE AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, IF NOT HISTORIC, MEETING.

TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF MY THOUGHTS AND EXPECTATIONS ABOUT THE UNITY AND GOOD HEALTH OF OUR COUNTRY THE KIND OF THOUGHTS AND EXPECTATIONS I SHALL BE TAKING TO THE OTTAWA SESSIONS.

I BELIEVE IT IS AN ESSENTIAL AND LEGITIMATE TASK OF THOSE IN POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP TO AFFIRM WHAT IS SOUND ABOUT OUR SOCIETY AND TO WORK TO IMPROVE CONFIDENCE AMONG US. BUT THERE IS NO EARTHLY VALUE IN DENYING THAT THESE ARE FRAGILE TIMES AND THAT, FOR MANY OF OUR CITIZENS, DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE HAVE BEEN DIMINISHED.

So, our challenge next week is not simply to assert what is good and generous about our country, but to EARN your confidence that we can do better. And to do that we must, in fact, formulate, together, the key elements of a new national economic development strategy.

If all goes well, I suppose there will be some pushing and shoving to establish credit as to why we succeeded. By itself that would entail a real improvement over the tendency of the last decade of passing the blame. Some of the tender spirits in the media, however, have suggested that we may be seduced by a Liberal government in Ottawa, and that our help in constructing a new economic policy may be used as part of an election strategy. Surely it is best to bring this concern out in the open and I think I've stated it quite accurately.

I WAS NOT BORN YESTERDAY, AND I SENSE NO NEED TO RISK WHAT MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED BY INDULGING IN PARTISAN POLITICS, TODAY. FURTHERMORE, I DO NOT BELIEVE I NEED TO SPECULATE ON THE MOTIVES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AT THIS TIME. THE ELECTORATE OF THIS COUNTRY IS SENSITIVE AND JUDICIOUS, AND IF THE GOODWILL BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS IS SQUANDERED IN PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ROUND-TABLE THEATRICALS, NO PARTISAN INTEREST WILL BE ADVANCED.

MORE IMPORTANT, I WANT TO ALLAY ANY CONCERN ON YOUR PART ABOUT THE POSTURE OF THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT: WE KNOW WHAT WE WANT AND WILL ACT, WITHOUT RESERVATION, TO WIN THE FAIREST DEAL FOR OUR ECONOMY. INDEED I FEEL, VERY KEENLY, AN OBLIGATION ON BEHALF OF OUR PROVINCE TO SET ASIDE PARTISAN SPECULATION AND TO STRIVE TO SECURE THE KIND OF NATIONAL POLICY WE HAVE BEEN WORKING TO FASHION FOR SO LONG.

IN THE THRONE SPEECH, JUST BEFORE THE LAST ELECTION, WE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ALL FEDERALISTS MUST WORK TO PLACE OUR ECONOMY ON A PATH OF HONEST AND SECURE GROWTH. BUT THAT WILL NOT SUCCEED IF OUR ELEVEN SENIOR GOVERNMENTS GO OFF IN AS MANY DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. WE STATED THAT WE MUST RE-ESTABLISH A SENSE OF SHARED NATIONAL PURPOSE, FOR WITHOUT COMMON NATIONAL GOALS THERE CANNOT BE CONFIDENCE, AND WITHOUT CONFIDENCE THERE CANNOT BE GROWTH.

MY FRIENDS, BY OUR DEEDS AND BY WHAT WE HAVE SAID DURING THAT ELECTION, IN OUR OWN FISCAL POLICY, AND AT EACH AND EVERY OCCASION WE HAVE MET WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS COMMITMENT TO HELP REBUILD NATIONAL ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP.

WHETHER IN RESPONSE TO OUR URGINGS OR BY PURE INSPIRATION, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOW PROVIDED US WITH A SET OF MEDIUM-TERM NATIONAL ECONOMIC TARGETS AND A FORUM AT WHICH SOME STRATEGIC DECISIONS CAN BE MADE.

FOR THE SAKE OF ECONOMIC ADVANCE AND NATIONAL UNITY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MAY GIVE UP THE DELIGHTS OF PLANNING IN PRIVATE AND MAY START SETTING GOALS IN PUBLIC.

I CANNOT SAY, IN SPECIFICATIONS, WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL PROPOSE TO THE PREMIERS OF CANADA. HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THE BASIC FEATURES OF WHAT ONTARIO'S DELEGATION WILL BE STRIVING TO ACHIEVE.

IT IS OUR VIEW THAT THE NUMBERS ON GROWTH AND INFLATION PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE MINISTERS RECENTLY ARE OPTIMISTIC AS PROJECTIONS OF EXISTING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, IN OUR VIEW, WORTHY AND REALISTIC TARGETS IF WE MAKE, WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION, THE KIND OF BASIC POLICY CHANGES WE BELIEVE ARE NECESSARY AND FEASIBLE.

I WOULD LIKE TO QUOTE, IN PART, A TELEGRAM I SENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER LAST WEEK, WHICH INDICATES OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE DIMENSIONS OF THE CHALLENGE FACING NEXT WEEK'S CONFERENCE. (AND I QUOTE)

"IN REVIEWING THE LENGTHY AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF FIRST MINISTERS, I AM CONCERNED ABOUT ITS COMPLEXITY AND THE NEED TO KEEP THE DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED IN A BROAD BUT CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER. I WOULD THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT, WHERE POSSIBLE, WE RECOGNIZE AND EMPHASIZE FOUR CRUCIAL ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC POLICY. THESE SEEM TO EMERGE FROM THE MEDIUM-TERM TARGETS. THEY ARE:

- MEASURES TO PROMOTE AND MAINTAIN PRICE STABILITY;
- MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE BUSINESS CLIMATE AND INCREASE PRIVATE-SECTOR INVESTMENT;
- MEASURES TO INCREASE EXPORTS AND REPLACE IMPORTS, AND
- MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF GROWTH AND INCOMES."

(END OF QUOTE)

IN ORDER TO CONTAIN INFLATION -- OUR SINGLE GREATEST SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ENEMY -- AND TO RESTORE ADEQUATE LEVELS OF CREATIVE INVESTMENT IN HUMAN AND HARDWARE BEINGS, WE MUST ADOPT A NATIONAL FISCAL RESTRAINT PLAN. IT CANNOT BE ANY ONE GOVERNMENT AND IT CANNOT BE ANY ONE-SHOT AFFAIR. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ADVISED OF OUR VIEWS ON A JOINT COMMITMENT TO HOLD DOWN OVERALL PUBLIC SECTOR GROWTH IN STAFF, IN CURRENT SPENDING AND IN CAPITAL OBLIGATIONS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO PRECISE FEDERAL LEADERSHIP ON THIS PARAMOUNT ENDEAVOUR.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING RESTRAINT MUST ALSO INCLUDE ACTION TO ENSURE THAT WAGE AND SALARY AWARDS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR DO NOT OUTPACE THOSE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. WE MUST ENSURE THAT ALL CANADIANS, AND NOT JUST THE WEAK AND UNORGANIZED, SHARE THE BURDEN OF REAL INCOME ADJUSTMENTS WHICH FOOD AND ENERGY PRICES, CURRENCY DEPRECIATION AND SLOWER RATES OF PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH HAVE IMPOSED UPON OUR ECONOMY. WE NEED TO RESTORE SOME BALANCE TO PUBLIC SECTOR WAGE NEGOTIATIONS AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE ECONOMY. WE MUST KEEP IN MIND THAT TENURED CIVIL SERVANTS DO NOT BEAR THE SAME RISKS AS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE WORKERS AT INCO OR FALCONBRIDGE IN THIS PROVINCE.

AS WELL, WE MUST SERVE NOTICE THAT WE WILL KEEP OUR CORPORATE TAX STRUCTURE COMPETITIVE WITH THE UNITED STATES. OUR STUDIES INDICATE THAT THE EFFECTIVE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CORPORATION TAX IN ONTARIO IS VERY ATTRACTIVE WHEN COMPARED TO THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL STATES OF AMERICA. HOWEVER, THIS IS ALWAYS A CHANGING AREA AND WE MUST MAKE UP OUR MINDS, AS A COUNTRY, THAT, IF WE ARE GOING TO RENEW OURSELVES AS A FREE ECONOMY, WE MUST ENSURE ATTRACTIVE LEVELS OF AFTER-TAX REWARD FOR PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT.

FREEDING UP RESOURCES WILL NOT IN ITSELF ENSURE THAT BUSINESS WILL TAKE UP THE SLACK AND PROVIDE FULL EMPLOYMENT STIMULUS. AN INCREASINGLY LARGE PART OF THE UNCERTAINTY THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE OF THE PAST HAS REGRETTABLY BEEN THE ZEAL OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. AN EFFECTIVE INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY MUST INCLUDE A COMMITMENT TO DEREGULATION AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND RESISTANCE TO PRESSURE TO EXPAND AN ALREADY EXCESSIVE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.

THE GATT NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA PROVIDE US WITH A MAJOR CHALLENGE, BUT A MAJOR OPPORTUNITY AS WELL. WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS APPRECIATE HOW MUCH ONTARIO HAS AT STAKE AS THEY PREPARE FOR AND PURSUE THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS. WE EXPECT OUR TARIFF REDUCTIONS TO BE PAID FOR BY MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO FOREIGN MARKETS FOR CANADIAN EXPORTS, AND WE MUST BE ASSURED THAT INDUSTRY WILL HAVE ADEQUATE TIME TO ADJUST TO TARIFF CUTS.

WE NEED TO UNDERTAKE A MAJOR PROGRAM TO CONVINCe CANADIANS THAT WE PRODUCE GOODS AT HOME THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO BUY ABROAD. BUYING CANADIAN DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN ANY SACRIFICE OF EITHER QUALITY OR PRICE. BUT IT DOES MEAN JOBS FOR CANADIANS.

FREER TRADE AND TOUGHER WORLD COMPETITION ARE GOING TO FORCE US TO UNDERTAKE IN THIS COUNTRY A MAJOR PROGRAM OF INDUSTRY RATIONALIZATION AND RESTRUCTURING. GOVERNMENTS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO SIT DOWN WITH BUSINESS AND LABOUR TO TALK ABOUT THIS PROCESS, ABOUT ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE, ABOUT RETRAINING, CAPITAL INVESTMENT, MERGERS AND MARKETING TARGETS.

IT CANNOT SIMPLY BE A MATTER OF PROPPING UP FAILING INDUSTRIES. IT HAS TO BE ONE OF PROMOTING MOBILITY, RETRAINING AND REORGANIZATION FOR ULTIMATE ECONOMIC SURVIVAL. WE NEED TO BOLSTER THE INCENTIVES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO BRING THE FULL FORCE OF CANADIAN TALENTS TO BEAR ON OUR UNIQUE PROBLEMS AND NEEDS. WE NEED TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CORPORATE ORGANIZATIONS CAPABLE OF BRINGING CANADIAN INVENTIVENESS TO THE WORLD MARKET. MOST IMPORTANT, WE NEED TO SET ALL THIS UP NOW, WHEN WE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR STRENGTHS, AND WHEN INDUSTRY IS MAKING THE INVESTMENT DECISIONS THAT WILL AFFECT OUR FUTURE VIABILITY.

FINALLY, WE BELIEVE IT IS TIME TO RE-
EXAMINE THE WHOLE PACKAGE OF INITIATIVES DESIGNED
TO DELIVER ECONOMIC PROSPERITY TO THE LESS ADVANTAGED
REGIONS OF CANADA. QUITE OBVIOUSLY, THE FAILURE
OF EXISTING PROGRAMS AIMED AT REDUCING REGIONAL
DISPARITIES HAS BEEN A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE CURRENT
MALAISE SURROUNDING CANADIAN CONFEDERATION. IN
RATIONALIZING OUR TAX STRUCTURE, WE SHOULD CONSIDER
WAYS OF USING OUR REGIONAL CORPORATE TAX RATES AS
AN ALTERNATIVE WAY OF ENCOURAGING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

IN ANY EVENT, A NATION-WIDE ADJUSTMENT
PROGRAM MUST BE FINANCED AND LIMITED PUBLIC
RESOURCES WILL HAVE TO BE EMPLOYED WITH FAR
GREATER EFFICIENCY, IF WE ARE TO REORGANIZE
OURSELVES WITHOUT DIMINISHING A LONG-STANDING AND
FUNDAMENTAL GOAL OF SHARED NATIONAL GROWTH.

FEDERALISM -- THE MACHINERY OF OUR
DEMOCRATIC LIFE -- IS IN PERIL. UPON ITS
SURVIVAL AND ITS RENEWAL REST, IN LARGE MEASURE,
THE CAPACITY OF CANADA TO REMAIN WHOLE AND TO
FULFILL ITS PROMISE.

CANADA'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN ASKED A VERY SIMPLE QUESTION: AFTER FAILING TO SOLVE SOME OF OUR LARGEST PROBLEMS IN OUR OWN SEPARATE WAYS, CAN WE NOW COME TOGETHER AND RESPOND TO THE CLEAR AND COMMON CHALLENGES IN THE ECONOMY?

NEXT WEEK WE MUST ANSWER THAT QUESTION, AND IN THE GOOD NAME OF A VIABLE CANADA AND ON BEHALF OF A PEOPLE WHO DESERVE BETTER, I AM CONFIDENT THAT NEW WAYS TO ADDRESS OUR PROBLEMS WILL BE FASHIONED.

WHILE THE CRITICAL ISSUES WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE FIRST MINISTERS' MEETING ARE ECONOMIC, WE MUST ALSO, SOON, TURN TO SOME OF THE BROADER ISSUES AFFECTING THE POLITICAL AND STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF CANADA.

IN ONE RESPECT IN PARTICULAR, ONTARIO WILL BE SEEKING A NATIONAL CONSENSUS. THAT IS THE QUESTION OF MINORITY LANGUAGE RIGHTS.

WHILE VARIOUS, SIMPLY ILL-INFORMED OR LESS THAN WELL-MEANING FEDERAL POLITICIANS WOULD HAVE CANADIANS BELIEVE OTHERWISE, ONTARIO HAS LONG BEEN COMMITTED, OFFICIALLY SINCE 1971, TO A GUARANTEE OF MINORITY LANGUAGE RIGHTS IN ANY NEW CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK THAT IS DEVELOPED.

I CITE FEDERAL POLITICIANS IN PARTICULAR BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THEIR COMMENTS ARE EVEN MORE DAMAGING TO THE CAUSE OF UNITY AND PROGRESS THAN ANY TYPE OF DESTRUCTIVE CRITICISM THAT WE HEAR FROM LIBERAL AND NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERS IN OUR OWN LEGISLATURE.

AT ST. ANDREWS LAST AUGUST, MY FELLOW PREMIERS AND I URGED QUEBEC TO SET ASIDE THOUGHT OF ANY BILATERAL RECIPROCAL TREATIES ON LANGUAGE RIGHTS IN EDUCATION. WE ARGUED FOR A NATIONAL CONSENSUS AMONG ALL THE PROVINCES THAT WOULD ENSURE FULL PORTABILITY AND TRANSFERABILITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR PARENTS.

THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION HAVE ALREADY BEGUN ANALYSING THE PARTICULAR PROVINCIAL EDUCATION REALITIES WHICH WILL SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF SECOND LANGUAGE CAPACITIES.

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ARE MAKING FAIR AND STEADY PROGRESS, UNAIDED IN ANY MATERIAL WAY, BY FEDERAL CLARION CALLS FOR OFFICIAL DECLARATIONS ON BILINGUALISM. INDEED, ONE HAS TO COMPARE THOSE CALLS TO PROMISES MADE IN THE LAST TWO SPEECHES FROM THE THRONE IN OTTAWA. NOT YET HAVE WE SEEN ONE CENT FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BACK UP THEIR PROMISED EXPANSION OF SUPPORT FOR SECOND LANGUAGE EDUCATION BUT WE HAVE MOVED AHEAD WITHOUT THEM.

INDEED, ONE HAS TO REFLECT ON THE CONTINUING ALMOST RELIGIOUS SUBSERVIENCE OF SOME IN OTTAWA TO THE LANGUAGE POLICY OF ANOTHER DECADE -- THE KIND OF POLICY THAT WAS BUILT AROUND MASSIVE EXPENDITURES ON HAPHAZARD PROGRAMS AIMED AT MEETING DEADLINES THAT SERVED NO ONE BUT THOSE WHO SET THEM.

THE PRINCIPLE OF BILINGUALISM IN THIS COUNTRY, THE NOTION OF CO-EQUAL RESPECT AND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH MAJOR LANGUAGE GROUPS, IS, IN MY VIEW, A BASIC PRINCIPLE OF CANADIAN SOCIETY.

THE METHOD OF FEDERAL IMPLEMENTATION WAS SO OBTUSE AND SHORTSIGHTED THAT IT SERVED ALMOST TO THREATEN THE PRINCIPLE ITSELF.

MY GOVERNMENT IS NOT ABOUT TO REPEAT HERE THE PRECISE ERRORS COMMITTED ELSEWHERE --- ERRORS THIS COUNTRY IS STILL PAYING FOR IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.

IN ONTARIO, THE NATIONAL PRINCIPLE OF BILINGUALISM MUST BE PRESERVED IN THE PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION THROUGH OUR FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICE PROGRAM.

THAT PROGRAM, GUARANTEEING EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, ACCESS TO SERVICES IN AREAS OF ONTARIO WHERE POPULATION JUSTIFIES IT, AND AN INCREASING SCOPE OF FRENCH LANGUAGE GUARANTEES IN RESPECT OF HEALTH SERVICES AND THE COURTS, HAS PROGRESSED STEADILY SINCE THE 1960s.

NO ENGLISH SPEAKING PROVINCE HAS SPENT MORE PER CAPITA OR PROCEEDED IN PRACTICAL TERMS MORE EXTENSIVELY THAN ONTARIO.

IN NEW BRUNSWICK, SUCCESSIVE LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENTS CONTINUED TO PROCEED THROUGH THE AEGIS OF AN OFFICIALLY BILINGUAL JURISDICTION PROCLAIMED AS SUCH BY PROVINCIAL STATUTE.

NEW BRUNSWICKERS CHOSE THE ROUTE AND APPROACH THEY FELT TO BE BEST. IT IS THE ESSENCE OF CONFEDERATION THAT ONTARIO BE PERMITTED TO DO THE SAME.

MANY IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT -- AND I SAY THIS WITH A CONTINUING REGARD FOR THEIR GOOD FAITH EVEN IN THIS FEDERAL ELECTION YEAR -- FORGET THE DIVISION CAUSED BY THE EXCESSES OF THEIR PROGRAMS.

DIVISION, FEAR, RANCOR AND DISTRUST ARE NOT THE TOOLS OF NATION BUILDING.

THEY ARE NOT THE STUFF OF WHICH NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IS MADE.

ONTARIO WILL NOT BE LURED INTO EITHER
DUPLICATING OTTAWA'S MISTAKES OR RESPONDING IN
ANGER TO UNIVITED AND HARMFUL FEDERAL INTERVENTIONS
IN THIS MATTER.

ANGER IS ONE PARTICULAR EMOTION WE
SHOULD ALL PUT ON THE SHELF FOR THE NEXT WHILE,
HOWEVER STRONG THE TEMPTATION MAY BE TO RESORT TO
IT FROM TIME TO TIME.

CREATIVITY, ON THE OTHER HAND, FRANKNESS
AND FIRMNESS ARE QUITE ANOTHER MATTER.

IN ESSEX COUNTY, THIS PROVINCE MADE A
DIFFICULT STAND FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL LANGUAGE
OPPORTUNITY. THE VOICES OF FEDERAL CABINET
MINISTERS WERE SOMEHOW STRANGELY SILENT THEN.

WE TOOK THE HEAT THEN, ALONG WITH THE
OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE LEGISLATURE,
BECAUSE IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO AND ALL
PARTIES HERE SHOULDERED THE CONSEQUENCES.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT,
IRRESPECTIVE OF OTTAWA'S PREJUDICES OR MYTHOLOGIES.
WHAT IS RIGHT FOR ONTARIO IS CONTINUED EXPANSION OF
FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES TO MEET REAL NEEDS, OPENLY
AND DIRECTLY.

THAT IS OUR FORMULA. IT HAS NO CEILINGS,
NO FIXED BUDGETS, NO ARTIFICIAL DEADLINES. THERE
ARE NO LIMITS IMPOSED BY ANY PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS.

WHAT THERE IS IS A DEEPLY ROOTED COMMITMENT
TO ENSURE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FRENCH
SPEAKING POPULATION OF OUR PROVINCE -- A COMMITMENT
TIED TO NOTHING MORE HIGHBLOWN THAN A BASIC RESPECT
FOR THE HUMAN CONDITION.

AS LONG AS IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO SERVE, IT
IS MY INTENTION TO ENSURE EVER EXPANDING SPHERES
OF FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICE IN ALL FIELDS TO MEET
EVER EXPANDING NEEDS.

WE WILL MEET MEASURED NEEDS IN A MEASURED
WAY.

WE WILL LEAVE SELF-SERVING PROCLAMATIONS OF BILINGUALISM TO OUR FEDERAL FRIENDS AND PURSUE INSTEAD PEOPLE-SERVING FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES IN ONTARIO.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL ARGUE THAT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF BILINGUALISM WOULD BE A SYMBOLIC GESTURE OF GOOD FAITH.

TO THEM I SAY IT IS SUPPORT, UNDERSTANDING AND COMMITMENTS THAT ARE BEING SOUGHT - NOT SYMBOLISM.

WHILE WE HAVE SET ASIDE OFFICIAL PROCLAMATIONS OF BILINGUALISM, WE HAVE NOT AS A GOVERNMENT SET ASIDE THE POSSIBILITY OF A STATUTORY FRAMEWORK TO THE FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICE COMMITMENT WE ALREADY HAVE AND WHICH WE WILL BE EXPANDING. THESE EXIST ALREADY IN THE CONTEXT OF EDUCATION.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS RESPECT EXIST AND ARE BEING ACTIVELY ASSESSED, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELDS OF JUSTICE AND HEALTH.

ONTARIO HAS CHOSEN MODERATION, CAREFUL PROGRESS AND PRACTICAL PROGRAMMING IN THIS AREA. OUR APPROACH IS DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO THE ILL-FATED FEDERAL IMPLEMENTATION. I MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR THAT. I AM, IN FACT, PROUD OF IT.

I AM ALSO PROUD OF THE CLEAR COMMITMENT OF OUR PEOPLE TO CONTINUE TO PLAY A BALANCED AND SOLID ROLE IN SHAPING SOLUTIONS THAT WILL DEFINE OUR NATIONAL FUTURE.

WE ARE NOT GIVEN IN THIS PROVINCE TO EMOTIONAL DECLARATIONS ON MATTERS OF LANGUAGE OR PRINCIPLE WHICH WE WOULD HAVE NO IMMEDIATE HOPE OF BACKING UP WITH ACTIONS.

WE ARE GIVEN, I SUBMIT, TO CAREFUL AND PRACTICAL PROBLEM SOLVING, BASED ON PRINCIPLE, COMMON SENSE AND DECENCY. WHETHER ONE LIVES IN LEEDS COUNTY, THUNDER BAY, MIDDLESEX OR METRO, THE SAME REALITY EMERGES: WE ARE A PEOPLE WHO WANT SOUND AND CAREFUL OPTIONS PURSUED IN CREATIVE WAYS.

IN GOING TO OTTAWA NEXT WEEK, ONTARIO WILL PRESENT ECONOMIC OPTIONS FOR NATIONAL CONSIDERATION ALONG WITH OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO MINORITY LANGUAGE GUARANTEES.

WE WILL, QUITE FRANKLY, BE LESS THAN WELL DISPOSED TO TOLERATE EXCESS ON EITHER THE CENTRALIST OR DECENTRALIST SIDE OF THE VARIOUS ISSUES. WE WILL ACT FOR CANADA, THE CANADA THE PEOPLE OF ONTARIO PASSIONATELY WANT TO SEE PRESERVED.

MANY IN THE MEDIA AND ELSEWHERE HAVE SPOKEN AND WRITTEN ABOUT A LACK OF LEADERSHIP IN ENGLISH SPEAKING CANADA -- A LACK OF A STRONG VOICE ON THE UNITY ISSUE.

TO ALL THOSE WHO CRITICIZE, I SAY THAT IF THEIR DEFINITION OF A STRONG VOICE EMBRACES THE SHRILL, THE SUPERFICIAL, THE SLAPDASH AND THE SHALLOW, THEN ONTARIO'S POSITION WILL BE A PROFOUND AND CONTINUING DISAPPOINTMENT TO THEM. AND FOR THAT I OFFER NO APOLOGY.

THE STRENGTH CANADA NEEDS MOST IS THE STRENGTH OF MODERATION, THE STRENGTH OF SOLID LOGIC, THE STRENGTH TO SEEK COMPROMISE AND CONCILIATION.

I HAVE NOT GIVEN TWENTY YEARS TO PUBLIC LIFE IN ONTARIO AND CANADA TO EMBARK NOW UPON A STYLE OF LEADERSHIP WHICH WOULD BE A SERIOUS DERELICTION OF ONTARIO'S DEBT TO HER HISTORY AND DUTY TO HER FUTURE.

WITH YOUR COUNSEL, SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING WE WILL CONTINUE IN ONTARIO TO DISCHARGE THAT DUTY AND ABOVE ALL, OUR GREATER DUTY TO THE CIVILITY, HUMANITY AND ULTIMATE WELL-BEING OF THE CANADA WE ALL LOVE AND CHERISH.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.