

The Address—Mr. M. Tremblay

Mr. Boyer: Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to the speech of the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart). It was not difficult to understand. It is clear that the Hon. Member proudly and strongly objects to unemployment, but I am not asking a question, I am making a comment, my friend. He speaks with the pride and enthusiasm of a neophyte who has just discovered a new problem. I wonder if he still holds the same opinion as when he sat on this side of the House. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether the Hon. Member is reflecting the views of his constituents with such a negative attitude about our new \$1 billion program for job creation and whether he could set forth some concrete ideas and better suggestions in our national debate on unemployment.

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the Hon. Member's three questions. With respect to his first, namely if I had the same attitude when I was on the other side, I would say yes because if during the worst recession, the Liberal government had enforced your policies, we would not have a million and a half but four million unemployed. Within the caucus, some members like myself and some of my colleagues have fought and instead of reducing the deficit, the government created jobs to prevent undue hardship. That was the first question.

The Hon. Member then asked what were my suggestions. You said that you listened carefully to my speech. Suggestions have been made. Union leaders say that we should discuss reduction of working hours as a means to create more jobs. Would it not be worthwhile to set up an early retirement policy, to lower to 60 the retirement age so that the young could gain access to the labour market? There are many solutions and instead of challenging the universality of programs, it may be more advisable to deal with taxation.

● (1700)

Yesterday, I mentioned the tax indexation table. Who benefits? The rich. One billion dollars . . . The income tax indexation table . . . A bachelor with an income of \$7,500 saves \$54. But a bachelor with an income of \$100,000 saves \$460. That is where they should get the money to reduce the deficit. Why I am so negative? Well, my constituents seem to think I do a good job, because in spite of the Conservative landslide, they put their trust in me, while as far as you people are concerned, anyone running for your Party would have been elected.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): More questions or comments? The Hon. Member for Lotbinière.

Mr. Maurice Tremblay (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, upon rising in this Chamber, the symbol of our democracy, I am filled with emotion. On this occasion, while I am both very proud and very pleased to be making my first speech as the Member representing the riding of Lotbinière, I also feel some apprehension and at the same time a great deal of confidence in the future in undertaking my duties as a parliamentarian. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy and enthusiasm that as a

citizen of this great country, I am ready to help find solutions to the problems that will be facing us, nationally, provincially and within our respective ridings.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I wish to congratulate you on your appointment. I am sure that you will conduct the proceedings in this House with discernment, justice and equity for all. I should be grateful if you would also convey my congratulations to the Member for Don Valley West (Mr. Bosley), the Speaker of the House. Perhaps the Hon. Member remembers his visit to the riding of Lotbinière. In any case, the people of Lotbinière remember a bilingual gentleman, who is both fair and forthright, and also his quick wit and brilliant intellect, his absolute honesty and his parliamentary experience. My congratulations also go to all Members of this House who were able to win the confidence of their constituents and who are sitting in this Chamber at the beginning of this thirty-third Parliament. I am sure that we, the class of 1984, will benefit from the experience and advice of these senior Members.

Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the tradition, I would like to thank my constituents in Lotbinière for their confidence in electing me as their representative in the House of Commons. I can assure them that I will devote all my efforts and energy to state their views and their claims in Parliament. I would also like to congratulate the Canadians throughout the country who have made a sound choice when they heavily supported the representatives of a government of national reconciliation, for it is in those terms that the newspapers and other medias describe the new era announced in the throne speech. National reconciliation is what people seek at this juncture and Canadians have said so clearly in the last election. National reconciliation calls for change or renewal in many fields. Current priorities, as set forth in the Speech from the Throne, are designed to meet our requirements: economic renewal, social justice renewal and constitutional renewal.

Using my riding of Lotbinière as an example, Mr. Speaker, I intend to depict briefly our current situation with respect to employment, economic conditions, agriculture, federal-provincial relations, youth or senior citizens associations. Everywhere, people are worried.

Lotbinière is a huge riding on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River. Our population is young despite the exodus towards more challenging labour markets. It is a partly urban, partly rural area. We have aggressive farmers, and some have the best dairy farms in Canada, but they also are worried. They have things to say to the federal Government. They remember that in the past they have been ignored at times, forgotten at other times, but they have been hurt by legislation and regulations passed without being consulted. They were quite often victimized by high-handed decisions coming from above, and certainly they are happy with this new Government's attitude. I am therefore committed to be a strong and efficient spokesman, and I feel sure that this new spirit of conciliation will be beneficial to all.