

*The Address—Mr. Dubois*

When one considers the programs that apply in Lotbinière and naturally to all Canadians, one can see, as it is said on page 5, that the government is very concerned about the employment situation in Canada. It is hoped that later on the municipalities, with the consent of the provinces if necessary, will be able to introduce programs such as Canada Works. I know that recently municipalities including Lotbinière were unfortunately prevented from introducing Young Canada Works projects by our provincial government which thus caused the rejection of many projects and a lot of trouble to some people. The forthcoming programs that have already been adopted following the throne speech allow for optimism about the employment situation in Canada in future years. The Trudeau administration tried to develop that very kind of program which is sought out by the Canadian people, and as I said earlier, it started on June 2. I refer to Mr. Axworthy's program.

While we can talk about those programs, I think what we should do in fact is publicize them. That being said, I also invite my colleagues on both sides of the House to publicize the various employment programs of the Government of Canada. We should tell the Canadian people what are the existing programs. You will see there are a lot of programs, if you read the document issued by the minister on June 2, 1980, which refers to native training programs, to the training of women to occupy non-traditional occupations, to local job-creation assistance. How many Canadians do not know of these programs? How many Canadians are not aware of this situation? Of course, there are departmental press releases, but I think that members have an important role to play with respect to these programs, and that is to make their constituents aware of them by telling them how the Canadian government is helping the community through job creation.

● (1450)

We must therefore tackle this problem. I shall return to this matter later on when dealing particularly with the question of Canadian unity and the situation in Quebec between April 15 and May 20, the referendum period. Therefore, we must make those facts known to the Canadian people, and I think one of the duties of a member of Parliament is to tell his constituents and Canadians in general: "Listen, the Canadian government has implemented various job-creating programs. You must take advantage of them and provide opportunities for the unemployed to benefit from government aid. Thus, the wheel is set in motion, because workers pay taxes and therefore get the economy going. This very urgent publicity problem must be tackled, because in the province of Quebec particularly, where the riding of Lotbinière is located, we are deluged with publicity to the effect that it is the provincial government which is doing such and such a thing. How many social programs are there in the field of job creation, aid to municipalities whose costs are shared between the Canadian and the provincial governments? How many citizens do not know this?

Mr. Speaker, many citizens do not know the extent of the federal participation. We must therefore tackle this problem and inform the Canadian people that the federal government is everyone's government and that it can help them in the field of employment just as I have said.

Of course, I could not make my speech without talking about farming and, there again, at page 5 of the Speech from the Throne, reference is made to agriculture. Since that time, Mr. Speaker, it is obvious we had to discuss certain problems in the House, and the budget of the Department of Agriculture and the agricultural policies enabled Canadian and Quebec producers to maintain their position. In the past, it is true we had problems in agriculture. We even saw farmers come here on Parliament Hill to demonstrate. But that situation went back to normal, and I think our Canadian and Quebec producers are very happy. So we have to continue in the same vein.

In my riding, Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to point out to the House that even that farming business is important. Many breeders are renowned and even go to major exhibitions like the Toronto exhibition and won prizes there. I am speaking of breeders like Messrs. Pepin and Tourigny who were master breeders in Canada as farm producers of the Holstein breed.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, we can only be happy about the situation of farmers who are having problems today like any other class in society but, nevertheless, I think we can say that farm producers have their place in the sun in Canada. The policies implemented by the government of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the policies that have been implemented in the past 12 years, since 1968, have enabled Quebec farmers to hold an enviable place in our Canadian society and earn revenues comparable to those of people in other classes of society.

I admit farmers will say they have to make huge investments and spend a lot of money to start their businesses. It is obvious that agriculture today is no longer a small undertaking, it is a business in which a good many Canadians succeed through hard work like in any other area. Mr. Speaker, I can only be happy with that situation given the Speech from the Throne which applies perfectly in the riding of Lotbinière.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, when reading the Speech from the Throne, I can only rejoice that the criminal law situation is mentioned. As I have a law practice in the Victoriaville area of the Lotbinière constituency, I am more than happy to see the following reference on page 5:

The serious problem of violence against women will also be addressed along with other amendments to the Criminal Code, and efforts will be made in concert with the provincial and territorial governments to improve health and social services for women who are victims of violence.

It is time, too, to move cannabis offences to the Food and Drugs Act and remove the possibility of imprisonment for simple possession.

Mr. Speaker, after eight years as a trial lawyer, I know that many Canadians wonder about the situation relating to the