

national debate on the direction this country should take in the fulfilment of its destiny. We ought to remember that there are many ways by which to go forward but only one way to stand still.

I move, seconded by my hon. friend from St. Maurice-Lafèche (Mr. Chrétien):

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency General the Right Honourable Georges P. Vanier, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Military Cross and the Canadian Forces' Decoration, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean Chrétien (St. Maurice-Lafèche): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank sincerely the members on both sides of the house for the very warm welcome I was given this afternoon. His Excellency the Governor General apprised us this afternoon of the contents of the speech from the throne for the third session of Canada's twenty sixth parliament, and I am sure that all members join with me in expressing, through you, Mr. Speaker, our great pleasure in seeing that he is in better health than ever, and the French speaking members in particular would like to let him know how proud they are to see this compatriot fulfil with so much nobility the duties of governor general.

[Text]

I hope you will permit me, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of every member of this house to express my sincere congratulations to my hon. friend from St. John's West (Mr. Cashin) on the very good speech he has just delivered. He showed a real interest in the affairs of this country and great hope for its future. The constituents of his great riding can be proud of him. When we have the opportunity to work with men of his capacity coming from Newfoundland we begin to think it was perhaps not such a bad piece of work when Mr. St. Laurent brought this great province into confederation.

• (4:40 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) for extending to the constituency of St. Maurice-Lafèche the honour of asking its representative to second

the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

The riding of St. Maurice-Lafèche is almost completely urban. It comprises three main cities, including Shawinigan, a greatly industrialized town with its aluminum plant, its manufacturers of chemical products and its pulp mill. Grand'Mère is another industrial centre, with a pulp mill and textile and footwear manufacturers. Eighty miles north is the town of La Tuque with its huge paper mill.

I do not have to dwell upon the beauties of the landscape, because my riding extends for a hundred miles on each side of the important St. Maurice river, which carves its way through the most beautiful of the Laurentian mountains. The journey from Grand'Mère to La Tuque on an October day is surely one of the most magnificent one could make.

Even though the situation has improved in the last 18 months, my riding is still up against the current problems facing the country: some degree of unemployment, automation and insufficient economic development.

Fifteen years ago, Shawinigan, in particular, was a city in the province of Quebec with an extensive labour market for fairly well trained manpower. Industry offered great opportunities and the workers were alert and highly syndicated. However, industrialists were ill prepared for and unaware of labour problems and the workers themselves were sincere but impatient. A series of major labour troubles took place which brought about great changes in the industries and the lay-off of workers; labour was replaced by automation, and with the economic situation of the country deteriorating very rapidly after 1958, our area experienced severe unemployment in 1961-62, and was unable to provide work for even the most skilled new workers. The exodus of our young graduate technicians, well prepared for a technical career, was a tragic thing. May I point out, Mr. Speaker, that in 1961, while I was teaching graduates at the Technological Institute of Shawinigan, 10 students only out of 100 intended to remain on the local labour market.

And this brings me to the heart of the matter, that is, the role of the state in the economy of the country if we wish to remedy situations such as these.

Canada is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. We boast about the resources of our society. It is true that Canadians generally enjoy a high standard of living, but it is also true that 25 per cent of our people do not live yet according to our wealth, but under