

been promising to build roads to Uranium City, but any roads that have been built to our far north have basically been provided with the assistance of provincial funds and the money of the people of Saskatchewan. In all justice, I should point out that the roads to resources program in the late fifties and early sixties was of some help.

The irony of our situation, also, is that in the last federal election my opponents went around the constituency, especially its northern areas, saying, "Look what we have done for you. We have provided you with medicare and hospitalization". I really became angry on hearing this, because the people of Saskatchewan know very well where medicare and hospitalization came from, who provided it and who opposed it. Millions of dollars were spent in trying to defeat it in 1962, and this effort succeeded for a while.

Federal funds went into hospitalization and medicare only when the government was forced into doing it by the weight of political pressure as well as for reasons of political expediency. They had to do this if they wanted to survive. They have been stealing a lot of our thunder, but we are still proud of being called the conscience of the nation. I know very well who financed the doctors, who tried to oppose medicare in Saskatchewan in 1962, who sent funds in order to defeat the government of the province, and who had integrity and belief in the basic goodness of human beings.

Mr. Speaker, I think we should give this parliament an opportunity to work and we should get away from some of the quibbling that has been going on—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired, unless there is unanimous consent to allow him to continue.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Drummond (Mr. Boisvert).

• (1730)

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Marie Boisvert (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, it is the first time I have the honour to speak to this noble assembly and, on behalf of my constituents in Drummond and of all the right-thinking citizens of this country, I am proud to be able to show how well-founded were their discontent and criticisms as regards the government and to inform the latter of their desires and hopes.

There have always been criticisms; but there is less and less hope among Canadians because they have less and less faith in the promises of this government, which used the same methods that were used by all previous governments to deal with the same problems. The government still considers taxpayers as suckers that can be fooled according to the same old recipe which everybody finds disgusting but which never changes because the head is always the same: high finance, the leader of the Grits or of the Tories who cooks for himself only without even wondering about the taxpayers or knowing whether they are starving or able to provide for themselves.

The Address—Mr. Boisvert

In the Speech from the Throne read by the Governor General, the government gives us a list of pious wishes. It is all bluff. The taxpayer follows from afar and sometimes absent-mindedly what goes on on the federal scene and hears false ringing comments from government members and the official opposition, not to mention the dreams of conquest on the part of the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, in the Speech from the Throne the government begins to consider the reforms advocated by the Social Credit party for more than 30 years. One must therefore conclude that in the case of the Liberals, the age of discretion is 30. Better late than never, however.

Mr. Speaker, there are problems in Canada and particularly in the constituency of Drummond.

Drummondville is a major town of the province of Quebec situated in the center of the riding of Drummond, whose taxpayers have chosen me to represent them; I want to thank them heartily and assure them of my dedicated service for the whole duration of my term of office.

Drummondville is a centre for textile industry, and its main employers pay below-average salaries. That is why Drummondville has one of the lowest average income in Canada. When workers are dismissed, they are perfectly entitled to receive welfare benefits, and there are a great many of them who have no other means of subsistence. All the other industries are also of secondary or tertiary importance. There is really no basic industry, on which secondary industries could be grafted.

Drummondville is situated at a crossroad in Quebec. In fact, it radiates towards all major centres of the province. Its highway system is excellent and adequate for the needs of any industry. The government deprived it of an excellent opportunity for extension recently when it was decided not to build the new airport in Drummondville but at Sainte-Scholastique. I mention the airport because for some time it was the greatest hope in the history of our town.

• (1740)

The location of Drummondville at the crossroads of Quebec, near large centres such as Trois-Rivières, Mont-real, Granby, Sherbrooke, Victoriaville and Quebec had been praised. Thousands of citizens had signed petitions voicing their desire to see that project carried out. The unemployed and the recipients of social welfare were anticipating better days. The pride of all citizens had heightened with the hope that their town would be gaining importance. Our hope was based on the support of two ministers of the constituency, one at the provincial and the other the federal level. As it happened the airport was set up elsewhere in an unknown and remote area near the federal capital and Ontario in a hilly district which did not lend itself to speedy development.

It seems to us that the government could have made up for it by promoting the establishment of thriving and viable industries among us which could have contributed to bring new assets and stimulate the trade in order to enable the economy to operate more regularly and normally.

If, in our democratic system, the government is not free to ensure each citizen a fair distribution of resources, it