

*The Address—Mr. C. Lapointe*

and where we have been able to develop culturally, economically and socially.

Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity to take part in a great adventure for civilization. We have the opportunity to build day after day this new man born out of the contacts between two great civilizations, the French civilization and the English civilization. This new man, whose behaviour is influenced by the civilization and the way of life of the first inhabitants of this country, our native brothers, this new North American man, formed also by all the wealth brought to this country by the new Canadians who have come here from everywhere in the world, this new man, a Francophone in our case, Mr. Speaker, has the opportunity to live in the second largest country in the world, a country which has never known war, a country born out of negotiations based on a common will to live together in the spirit of sharing and generosity. Or course, all this has not always been easy and in many cases in the past, Francophones in this country have been treated unfairly. But must we enter the future backwards, with our eyes riveted on past mistakes, Mr. Speaker? Or is it not better to consider the enormous progress accomplished during the last thirty years, and build our future on what is already established?

At the present time the spokesmen for the Parti Québécois are appearing in every forum of Quebec to try in an underhand manner to make our fellow citizens believe that the federal state, its Parliament and its government are foreign institutions. It is suggested that Quebec has always been the poor cousin of confederation and that French-speaking Canadians have constantly been exploited by the English in Canada. That is exactly what the Péquistes tried to prove in their white paper that distorts historical facts. Thus in all the speeches they make these days, culture is one of their favorite examples. They outdo one another in expressing their disgust at the federal government, this foreign power, as they like to say, which has been trying to dominate and control the French culture in Canada. How can they make such contentions, Mr. Speaker, when we know that the Canada Council, created in 1957 by the federal government, helped so many artists in Canada, in Quebec and French Canada, such as Borduas, Riopelle, Julien, Leclerc, Vignault and many others, have successful careers, develop their talents and make a name for themselves in the artistic community not only in Quebec but throughout Canada and even at the international level.

Some of those who benefited most from the Canada Council choose today not to remember. The same thing happened, Mr. Speaker, in the early fifties. You will recall that television was in its infancy and the then government had decided to endow this great country with a national television network. In 1952, Parliament decided to create the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. And in the same bill, Mr. Speaker, this government of foreigners, as the Parti Québécois calls it, also established the Société Radio-Canada, a corporation which enjoys an exceptional degree of financial and artistic autonomy, a corpo-

ration which through years promoted the development of French culture in Canada and the discovery of several talents in all realms of television.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note also that in 1979, last year, 36 per cent of the budget of the whole corporation was given to Radio-Canada, the French network, and that 4,300 employees of this corporation now work in Quebec. There is another aspect, Mr. Speaker, which can exemplify the two basic principles of our federation, sharing and generosity, and that is the economic sector. With your permission, I would like to review briefly some industrial sectors of Quebec, starting with traditional industries like textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods. What is the situation in the textile industry, Mr. Speaker? Statistics show that 48,000 employees of that Canadian industry or 51 per cent of the total Canadian work force are located in Quebec. And 45 per cent of all Quebec's textile production is sold in other Canadian provinces. In the apparel industry, 70 per cent of industrial plant is in Quebec, accounting for 66 per cent of the Canadian total. And as in the case of textiles, 47 per cent of all clothes made in Quebec are sold in other Canadian provinces.

What is the federal government doing to protect that predominantly Quebec industry that is threatened by foreign imports enjoying cheaper textiles and clothes costs? The national government acted to impose quotas on imports and increased tariff protection, which is now guaranteeing stable markets and safe jobs to the Quebec textile and clothing industries. The same goes for the leather and footwear industries. With 10,000 employees in Quebec, or 43 per cent of the total Canadian labour force in the industry, 50 per cent of all footwear and leather goods production is made in Quebec, of which 57 per cent are sold in other Canadian provinces.

The sectorial approach introduced at the federal level in 1973 greatly helped that industry. The use of tariffs and import quotas coupled with the assistance programs not only protected jobs in that industry in Quebec but also led to new job creations since 1976. One of the programs of great value for Quebec in the leather and footwear industry is the adjustment program under which businesses are offered both grants and loans at favourable interest rates. From 1974 to this day, 66 per cent of grants, and 56 per cent of loans under that program went to Quebec. The federal government also contributed in 1976 to the establishment of the Shoe and Leather Institute of Canada with headquarters in Montreal. That institute is very important for Quebec, where 50 per cent of its activities are concentrated. Mr. Speaker, these figures speak for themselves. I am deeply shocked to hear our opponents in the Parti Québécois suggest that Quebec gets less than other provinces in government help to the textile and shoe industries.

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Let's not deceive ourselves, Mr. Speaker, our fellow citizens from Calgary, Kamloops, Winnipeg or elsewhere in Canada