

The Budget—Mr. Plamondon

Let's talk about the construction of an industrial motel in the Nicolet area. It will also be announced shortly that work will start on the first plant of an industrial park in Tracy. That is something that the people of that region have been asking for at least 10 years. Within a few months, the first major industry to locate in the industrial park will be announced, to be followed by three smaller industries, which will finally mean a small business industry in the region. For the first time, we have seen a manufacturing industry locate in the Sorel-Tracy region, and this is not a processing plant of the plate-shop type, but a plant which produces finished products, namely the Maxtemp plant. Today, after less than a year, it provides nearly 30 jobs and its turnover will exceed \$10 million this year, and both of these figures could triple within a few years.

There have also been total investments of over \$500 million in the Becancour Park since the Conservative Party came into office with very well-paid permanent jobs, and we should not forget the new employment assistance programs which the Hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) has implemented and which emphasize training, in addition to the employment subsidy. In my riding, 68 per cent of jobs created under these programs have become permanent. These programs have given us permanent jobs instead of creating jobs which simply lead back to unemployment insurance.

Once more, the Government has been very dynamic and its economic policies have had practical results in my region.

I could go on about my own riding. More jobs will be created. Six industries are about to receive a positive answer from the federal Government to locate in the Sorel-Tracy region. There are also other investments, for instance in the Religion Museum in the Nicolet region, for which the federal Government has just allocated \$1.2 million, which will create about 30 permanent jobs, and this does not include the indirect fall-out resulting from all the people who visit a nationally renowned museum such as the Nicolet Religion Museum will become.

Moreover, next week, we shall hear some very good news about tourism in the Nicolet region, and the Becancour area is about to submit very important projects under the Laprade Fund, which projects will naturally receive careful consideration both from myself and from the Government of which I am proud to be a member.

In addition, there will be a major expansion project and the development of a new technology for cheese production, which should represent millions of dollars in investments.

Let us not forget either the Saint-Pierre-de-Sorel and Sainte-Anne region, where there will also be very important projects. These are the results of the policies of a Government which recognizes that the only way to develop a constituency, a province or a country is to create permanent jobs and to provide assistance and co-operation to the private sector,

without neglecting economic organizations either in the tourist industry or through key businesses and community development programs, which are certainly proving useful in my riding. My whole riding now qualifies for community development programs or key companies, which makes it easy for young entrepreneurs to start in business, without having to go through the whole bureaucratic ladder to get a small subsidy.

● (1230)

I realize, Madam Speaker, that I have only one minute left to praise this Budget speech and particularly its fallout for my riding and for the beautiful area in central Quebec I have the honour to represent. In conclusion, I would like to express the wish that my constituents do take advantage of this economic policy set up by the Government to assist the industry and I would like to assure them in particular that I will do everything in my power to assist them with all the cases they would like to refer to me. For the past three years, I have served them with concern, passion and dedication, and I will continue to do so, because I am very proud to represent my riding of Richelieu, which I consider as one of the most beautiful ridings in the province of Quebec.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Questions and comments. The Hon. Member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Vincent).

Mr. Vincent: If I may, Madam Speaker, I should like to commend the Hon. Member for Richelieu (Mr. Plamondon) for his excellent speech, and more particularly for the outstanding work he has been doing in his riding over the past three years. In my opinion, he has highlighted the work carried out in his riding, and the significance of the Conservative Government as well as of this and others Budgets. First I would ask him whether he can see a direct link between last week's Budget tabled by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) and earlier Budgets in terms of the evolution of businesses in his riding. He also mentioned the Laprade fund. How did people in his riding react to the announcement concerning the Laprade fund, especially in light of the fact that certain cases have already been settled? I happen to know that some companies in his riding got sizeable financial contributions from the Laprade fund. I should like to know how he feels about that and what his constituents have to say in this respect.

Mr. Plamondon: Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my hon. colleague from Trois-Rivières (Mr. Vincent) for his kind words, and I want to return the compliment. The dedication and energy displayed, not just in his riding but throughout Central Quebec, show that things have really changed since 1984, compared to what we had come to expect from the silent majority that preceded us here in the House of Commons.

To get back to his question, it was about the Laprade Fund. We announced that the Laprade Fund would be reactivated