

*The Address—Mrs. Duplessis*

In Louis-Hébert we enjoy a privileged environment because of our technological knowhow. The resources and potential are huge and available, and our Prime Minister in 1982 assessed this correctly when he stated during a stay in Québec City, and I quote: "You have everything needed to become Canada's strategic research and development centre".

And the actions taken during our last term clearly show that not even once did that recognition of the Québec city area by this Conservative Government fail. Let us recall the establishment of the high technology park in Ste. Foy, Québec, the location of the National Optical Institute, a promise made by the previous Government but never implemented; continuous and increased support to research at Laval University, the establishment in Ste. Foy of the Energy, Mines and Resources Geo Resource Centre in Ste. Foy, something that over and above its impact on research remedied more than 110 years of injustice to Francophones, and I could go on and on.

A brief analysis shows that we can enjoy in Louis-Hébert the presence of researchers from the Laval University, the I.N.R.S., the C.R.I.Q. and the entrepreneurship of high technology industries like Bomem, Lab-Volt, Didatech, Digitech, Gentec, D.I.L. International, to name but a few.

The riding I am privileged to represent in this House naturally focuses on the development of high technology. For a number of years indeed, everyone active in the community has recognized this and work together to target projects in that direction.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their constant support during these last four years—the people in Laval University, Chambers of Commerce, the C.R.I.Q., the I.N.R.S., people in private enterprise, everyone supported my work and the achievements I referred to earlier, which were made possible by the determination and hard work of all interested parties in the community. This is why I am confident that together, during the next four years, we can carry on with the work already undertaken and complete other major achievements.

Moreover, my role as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of State (Science and Technology) (Mr. Winegard) made me realize more than ever how vital the development of research, science and technology is to Canada's future. In an increasingly international world,

our businesses must adjust quickly to meet international competition, and this is where the high tech sector, as it relates to business and the economy, becomes even more important. Our Government realized that when, in our first term, it made research, science and technology one of the priorities of this country's business. We put this country on a new course towards the future, and for the first time in this country's history, we established, in consultation with the provinces, a national policy on science and technology.

• (1410)

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recall briefly some important events that have marked the past four years in the field of science and technology. In March 1987, the Federal-Provincial Council of Ministers of Science and Technology was created. The Council is responsible for supervising the implementation of a national policy and for consulting with the various groups working in science and technology in Canada.

The national policy approved by the federal and provincial governments in Vancouver, in March 1987, commits the parties to co-ordinating their efforts in six distinct areas. They are committed to assisting colleges and universities to meet our demand for highly-qualified individuals; to support basic and applied research while seeing to it that both academic research and investments by the private sector in research and development have a sound and durable basis; to promote research in the social sciences, especially on certain phenomena that are present in a society that is increasingly oriented towards high technology; and to promote development of a culture with an increased focus on science.

The Government has established a National Advisory Board on Science and Technology, consisting of 36 representatives from the scientific community, education, industry and labour, and chaired by none other than our Prime Minister.

In January 1988, I had the pleasure of attending the National Conference on Technology and Innovation, with over 200 decision makers from industry, the academic world and labour, and together we spent two days examining how science and technology could best serve the Canadian economy. We considered how productivity could be increased, how to increase the value of our products and especially how to make it easier for new high technology companies to get started.