

undergone some changes, mostly since 1968. I will say first that it is bounded on the east by the constituency of Lévis, which is represented in the House by the hon. member for Lévis (Mr. Guay) whose presence in the House I want to acknowledge because he has been instrumental in my election here. It extends northward to the St. Lawrence river, south-easterly to the constituency of Frontenac, southwesterly to Richmond, westerly to the constituency of Drummond and northwesterly to the constituency of Richelieu.

As I said earlier, Lotbinière underwent some change in 1968, when some parts of the riding were part of the Drummond-Arthabaska constituency, especially the Bois-Francs area. In addition, the constituency now extends further towards the Quebec area where various municipalities belonged to what was called the old Lotbinière. It is a semi-rural constituency made up of several towns and 57 municipalities in all. I am therefore proud to be here and address mainly my constituents of Ste-Cécile-de-Lévrard, my birthplace, the people of Victoriaville, of Arthabaska, Princeville, Daveluyville, Ste-Croix and Laurier-Station, which, by the way, is so called because one of our distinguished prime ministers, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, had stopped there. That is why it was called Laurier Station.

The riding, of course, is rich in parliamentary history; as I said, Sir Wilfrid Laurier made his mark on the Victoriaville-Arthabaska area, mainly in Arthabaska. He was a lawyer and had a practice. Later, he became Prime Minister of Canada, and probably one of the greatest prime ministers in our history. The riding of Lotbinière has also been represented in the House of Commons for several years by the Hon. Hugues Lapointe, former lieutenant-governor of Quebec. Trained as a lawyer, he served in the armed forces and was later appointed lieutenant-governor of Quebec.

Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, now Minister of Transport, was once the elected member for this part of the riding as well, which was then called Drummond-Arthabaska. This riding was also represented by the former leader of the Social Credit party, the late Mr. Fortin, who died in a car accident in the summer of 1977. The riding also produced some painters such as Suzor-Côté, one of our great Quebec painters who lived in Arthabaska in the riding of Lotbinière.

Of course that riding has also made a name for itself in the world of sports since many people from the Victoriaville and Bois-Francs area, such as Jean Béliveau, Gilbert Perreau and Gilles Marotte, have done them proud as well as the riding of Lotbinière. I am very pleased for my riding with the Speech from the Throne and the various programs and other measures it announced for creating employment in the small and medium-business sector. On page 6 of the speech, Mr. Speaker, the basic objectives of the government are outlined, namely to give work to more Canadians in those groups, such as the young, women, our native people and the handicapped, who have a harder time getting jobs.

The Address—Mr. Dubois

As I said, Mr. Speaker, the government will change those programs and re-allot funds to better meet the needs of those groups. Already, Mr. Speaker, many things have been done with regard to that situation; as far as my riding is concerned, there certainly is need to create jobs for the present situation is really serious. Even the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy), who was here this afternoon, spoke about the job-creation program some time in June. For the current fiscal year, he announced on June 2 a \$137 million program designed to meet the critical and immediate job problems many Canadians are facing. Over a \$100 million of that amount has already been earmarked for winter community development projects, especially in high unemployment areas. As for the riding of Lotbinière, these projects are undoubtedly very useful and enable a great many people, especially young people and even women, to join the labour force under these various programs, such as the community services development program and the local economic development assistance program. This situation is also very important for a constituency like Lotbinière where there are many industries such as the furniture industry and related industries, the textile industry and its by-products. The furniture industry has experienced some problems in the Lotbinière constituency, particularly in the main area around Victoriaville. Fortunately, the situation has now improved thanks to some federal assistance and to programs that were already being implemented and have only recently been amended. I am referring to the small business program mentioned on page 5 of the throne speech to assist industries by raising the ceiling for loans under the Small Businesses Loans Act and for farm improvement loans to \$100,000.

I am proud, Mr. Speaker, that the Speech from the Throne mentions these things which will allow Canadians, my constituents, and the industries operating in the riding of Lotbinière to receive these benefits. For example, the employment tax credit program, covered by Bill C-3 which was passed recently by the House, will assist young people starting off in the work force and help some industries facing cash flow problems to hire people with the aid of federal programs such as the employment tax credit program. To enable employers to hire new people who, we must admit, Mr. Speaker, are not always experienced, require considerable investment. This employment tax credit is indeed an excellent program for many Canadians and, obviously, also for my riding.

There will be a concentration of furniture and textile plants in the riding. Those have sometimes been said to be soft industrial sectors. Considering what exists in Lotbinière and the programs of the Canadian government, it can be said the Trudeau government through those various programs has reached a happy medium in those industries and allowed a good many Canadians to have decent work and earn a living for their families.