

That the committee have all powers given to standing committees under Standing Order 65; and

That the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence and other documents received on this subject during the second session be referred to this committee.

Motion agreed to.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

[*Translation*]

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. DENNIS DAWSON AND
SECONDED BY MR. DONALD WOOD

The House proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by Her Majesty the Queen at the opening of the session.

Mr. Dennis Dawson (Louis-Hébert): Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the members of the cabinet for giving me the task of moving the address in reply of the Speech from the Throne. That is not only a sign of confidence, which I greatly appreciate, but also an honour to which I am greatly sensitive. That honour I will share with the constituents of Louis-Hébert and the people of my own generation, people under 30, who constitute almost one third of the Canadian electorate. Before going any further, Mr. Speaker, may I join with my colleagues of this House in offering my heartfelt sympathies to the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Stanfield) who has been sadly affected by the demise of his wife.

Since it is the first time that I have the honour of addressing the House, I also take the opportunity to thank the right hon. Prime Minister for allowing me to join his team. It is for me a privilege and an honour to work beside him for the better-being of Canadians. I am satisfied, Mr. Speaker, that on this the 18th day of October, you, as well as my hon. colleagues, and those who are attending, will join me in wishing the right hon. Prime Minister a very happy birthday.

[*English*]

I also take the opportunity to thank my colleagues for their help and support since my election. Many persons complain about what we used to call the red tape of the administration. Well, I can tell those people that the newly elected member of parliament also faces many problems which he could not solve without the assistance of his fellow M.P.'s.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, the task which was entrusted to me by my constituents of Louis-Hébert, last May 24, is one of high responsibility. I am proud to be the successor of Mrs. Albanie Morin, this great lady of politics, whose self-denial and hard work will be forever engraved in our minds. Mrs. Morin was beloved by everybody and had won the respect and great esteem of all. I owe it to her memory to serve the constituents of Louis-Hébert as well as she did and, during my time in this

The Address—Mr. Dawson

House, I would like to leave as deep a mark and reach the same level of respectability as she did.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the constituency of Louis-Hébert is located in the metropolitan Quebec area. It includes the municipalities of Sainte-Foy, Sillery, Cap-Rouge as well as part of the beautiful city of Quebec. At the time of the last by-election, Louis-Hébert numbered over 76,000 voters and its population is of mixed origin. For the next election, my constituency will include what we call the Laurentian district and the township of l'Ancienne Lorette, and consequently Quebec airport. Since the metropolitan area of Quebec City forms a whole, economic and social progress in the riding of Louis-Hébert is closely linked to its development. At the economic level, developing Quebec Harbour and setting up new industries should in my opinion be the two major priorities for government action. The federal government has already agreed with one of our requests when it accepted the projected dredging of the channel in the St. Lawrence river in order to increase its depth from 38 to 41 feet. However, that is only a beginning. As a matter of fact, Quebec Harbour competes with other harbours on the St. Lawrence, in the Maritimes and on the West Coast. Basic rail and highway facilities are already available for fast transportation of freight from Quebec Harbour to major centres. Therefore, we have the necessary potential and it is of a vital importance that we further develop our harbour.

Also, in this period of economic slowdown, the state must become aware of its privileged situation and stimulate the economy. Government action must therefore encourage investments and the creation of new industries. Mr. Speaker, the Louis-Hébert constituency is no more free of the problem which requires immediate government attention than any other riding in Canada. As a member of parliament, I am particularly concerned with the social development of my constituency. I also particularly care for the aged and low income people. I urge the federal government which has already done much in areas to intensify its programs.

Finally, I am happy about the recent announcement by the hon. Minister of Finance concerning the administrative decentralization program of the federal government. In my opinion, the Louis-Hébert riding is an ideal location for setting up federal departments in the Quebec city area. All the required infrastructures are available to help civil servants settle in our region which is at the crossroads of the major communications areas of Eastern Quebec. As I mentioned earlier, this would be the kind of investment that my riding urgently needs.

[*English*]

Now, Mr. Speaker, having presented you my constituency of Louis-Hébert, I should like to comment on the Speech from the Throne made by Her Majesty, one dealing with the three most important issues our society is facing. Those issues—the economy, energy and national unity, have already been discussed in this House but will be given particular attention during the present session. Those areas are related to the survival of our nation, and to the well-being of all Canadians. They will lead to many important debates in this House which