

The Address—Mr. A. Gauthier

"Critically Speaking" and other programs which ought to reflect the thinking and actions of people all over Canada, not just people from a group of provinces. Were there administrative offices in Saskatchewan, or were there a production unit there, C.B.C. personnel would have a better opportunity to become acquainted personally with the leaders in the various organizations in that province, with speakers, musicians, actors and artists of all kinds. There would be a tremendous stimulus to local talent which might be used on the air; and there is a great deal of talent in that province. I noticed tonight that in Edmonton at a national contest in poetry put on some time ago by the Canadian authors' association, several of the prize winners were young Saskatchewan people.

In this interchange of correspondence between Premier Douglas and the chairman of the board of governors of the C.B.C. there is a letter from Mr. Dunton to the premier in which he says:

We have been aware for a long time of the desirability of having a C.B.C. production unit in Saskatchewan. I hope the new financial arrangements for the corporation will make it possible in the not too distant future.

Then I skip a line or two and quote again:

I can assure you, however, that a production centre for Saskatchewan is very much in mind.

That is indeed good news; and I express the hope that, when the necessary funds are available, this project will be one of the first to be carried out. I urge, of course—and it is natural perhaps that I should do so, for I am prejudiced—that the natural place for such a unit is the city of Saskatoon. I shall not weary the house by cataloguing its natural beauty and its many advantages, except to say this, and it is relevant to the subject under consideration. As the site of the provincial university it is the educational centre of the province; it has become recognized as the city in which most Saskatchewan organizations hold their conventions; and geographically it is at the centre of the large populated area of Saskatchewan. It will be of tremendous advantage to the city, to the province and to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation itself if there is established at that point a production centre such as we visualize.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, may I recapitulate the earlier part of my speech by again drawing to the attention of the government the desire of our people for the early construction of the Saskatchewan dam, the need for greater storage facilities for grain at the port of Churchill, the desperate need of the burnt-out veterans and veterans' widows for increases in their pensions, and

the responsibility of this government to alleviate somehow the uneasiness caused in Canada by inflation, over-taxation and the high cost of living.

(Translation):

Mr. Andre Gauthier (Lake St. John): Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance of the legislation introduced during this session and of the urgency of the problems which I have to submit to the government, I would be shirking my responsibilities if I did not take part in this debate.

I wish to associate myself with those who have preceded me in order to congratulate the mover of the address in reply to the speech from the throne (Mr. Cauchon) and the seconder (Mr. Simmons). Their electors should be proud of them. I have listened with particular interest to the speech of the member for Beauharnois and I have admired the manner in which he dealt with national unity. Before concluding my remarks, I shall come back to a particular aspect of national unity.

Our country is developing rapidly and the constituency which I have the honour to represent, Lake St. John, is in the forefront of the industrial development.

For the past few months the Aluminum Company of Canada has been engaged in the development of two power stations on the Peribonka river and the extension of its aluminum plants at Isle Maligne. These works, which will cost in the neighbourhood of \$100 million, create for the people of my constituency certain problems that appear difficult to solve. I am referring in particular to the housing problem. Some time ago, the Minister of Resources and Development (Mr. Winters) announced improvements to the federal law on housing for the benefit of the workers employed in defence industries.

Because aluminum is a metal used in the production of munitions of war, the Lake St. John district should be considered as an emergency district within the meaning of the act recently amended. I bring this point to the attention of the government. For my part, I am convinced this is the only way to face the situation and to solve, partially at least, this difficult and yet alarming problem, the housing problem. The need is particularly great at Saint-Joseph d'Alma, Naudville and l'Isle Maligne.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Lapointe) announced, a few days ago, an increase in the basic rate of veterans' pensions. The steady increase in the cost of living had reduced the value of their original pension. They were fully justified in asking for an increase in their pension.