

across the land and they contribute immeasurably to creating jobs.

What about the measures proposed to stimulate tourism in Canada? They are an additional proof of the prosperity of our economy. When we consider that in 1970 every Canadian citizen spent \$68 on international tourism, we realize that we must do everything possible to prevent those amounts of money from being spent abroad. We must at all costs stimulate the tourist industry at home and enable our Canadian industries to benefit from the many advantages tourism offers.

Mr. Speaker, as I am fortunate enough to represent a riding whose main industry is tourism, needless to say those programs stir considerable interest back home.

A large number of my constituents already have plans to improve their facilities; several already have projects for expansion and are very anxious to know all about the measures we intend to take to help that industry which is so important in my constituency.

In another field, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gillespie) told us what he intends to do to help small businesses by means of new provisions to improve management services, consultation services and to ease the access to financial help. This will certainly be most welcome all over the country and it will be an opportunity for us of the central government to help those industries employing no less than 32 per cent of the Canadian manpower.

Another important measure is intended to strengthen the very foundation of the country's economy and it will show that the government is in favour of a fair relation between the price of feed grain used by cattle breeders in different areas of the country. The government, Mr. Speaker, intends to take measures before the next farming season to ensure fair marketing prices for the producers of eastern Canada.

Again last week, and as he has been doing since 1962, the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Lessard) asked that such steps be taken. When we read a speech he delivered in 1962, we now realize that he was asking with much energy that the government take all possible measures to ensure a fair distribution of feed grain all over the country. He mentioned the progress made by several producers of the Lac Saint-Jean area on a co-operative basis in the field of slaughtering and butchering and he added that their turnover was continuously growing. At that time, he was already saying that the major problem which the producers had to face was that of distribution and costs of feed grain. Maybe I am too readily happy to see that the problem that the producers of eastern Canada have had to face for so long will be solved, we hope, during the coming weeks.

However, a solution can be found provided hon. members belonging to the four parties in this House co-operate and concur.

You will probably be hearing about this matter within the next days as we, who represent the province of Quebec, will not yield an inch and will not accept a negative reply to our repeated requests since 1962.

Many other initiatives of as great importance to living conditions in Canada were mentioned in the Speech from

*The Address—Mr. Dupras*

the Throne and will no doubt be debated within the coming months.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I should like to speak of matters more closely related to my electors and my riding. I want to inform my colleagues that last Friday, January 12, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Marchand) and I were present on the occasion of the transfer of titles to the La Macaza Base from the Department of National Defence to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The educational centre of La Macaza is part of a program announced jointly on June 8, 1972 by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the hon. Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier).

The program dealt with funds made available to native people for creation and operation of the educational and cultural centre. This centre, we were told, was conceived in order to allow Indians to study in an appropriate environment consistent with their own culture and special needs. This program is mainly aimed at enabling the native people served through that centre to take decisions about the management of programs, educational methods and any other activity connected with the operation of those centres.

This program, as was indicated, is an answer to the request of Indian groups to the federal government in order to ensure the survival of their culture. We have quite rightfully answered those requests.

In a joint statement, the ministers said that the centres were a unique opportunity for the native people to understand and appreciate better their present and historical part in the Canadian community. They added that the cultural consciousness and autonomy of the native people would be stimulated and developed by the creation of training facilities which are very important to them and to the whole of Canada.

The establishment of this centre is for us, of the riding of Labelle, a most fortunate solution, as it was stated several times. The closing of the Bomarc base at La Macaza represented for this area the loss of the second major employer. It will be recalled that the operation of this military base required a civilian staff of at least 80 people. I am thinking also of the goodwill that the presence of 200 or 300 families of military personnel could mean for the region. The area was therefore exposed to considerable hardship after the closing of this military base and its very economy was jeopardized.

I am very happy about the transformation of the military base and I would like to express all my satisfaction for having contributed to a certain extent to accelerate the negotiations so that the population of that area would not have to suffer too much from the closing of the base.

I would also like at this time to draw the attention of my colleagues on the more than warm welcome the people of my area extended to the Indians. Not only did the residents of Annonciation and La Macaza have a warm welcome for them but they already consider them and accept them as a part of theirs.

So, Mr. Speaker, may I be allowed at this time to pay special tribute to the people of my riding and on behalf of all Canadians I thank them very sincerely for their con-