

The Address—Mr. A. Brassard

is important to many of our people. This industry is having serious difficulty in meeting the competition of imported goods from low cost countries. They contend that tariff protection alone cannot solve their problem. They request control of imports by quota so that a fair share of the Canadian market may be retained for Canadian manufacturers.

Because of the relative size of the markets in the United States as compared to the size of the markets in Canada, the unit cost of tooling up for production is lower in the United States than it is in Canada. Our manufacturing industry needs protection because of this and probably will continue to need protection for a long time to come. Some Canadian industries, such as the farm implement companies, may have grown to a size where their volume permits them to compete on equal terms with United States industry, but this is generally not the case. Our smaller industries especially are in need of special consideration if Canadian industry as a whole is to survive and prosper.

I wish to express our appreciation to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. MacLean) for a very interesting and educational tour with him through the fisheries research laboratory in London. I was much surprised at the magnitude of its operation. This laboratory carries on the departmental research program for all fresh water fisheries in Canada. We of Middlesex West appreciate the location of this fine institution in our area.

The new national hospitalization plan, as it applies in Ontario since January 1 of this year, has been well received. More than 91 per cent of the people of Ontario are now covered. This exceeds expectations. Individuals are included in the plan on a voluntary basis, and people have signed up faster than was expected. This is a good indication that the plan fills a need in our economy. The plan will assist municipalities by eliminating much of the need for indigent hospital care. Because the plan permits hospitals to increase their rates to cover costs, hospital deficits which municipalities have been compelled to carry heretofore should disappear. Relief from this indigent hospital care and these hospital deficits should provide substantial assistance in the preparation of municipal budgets. Our government is entitled to much credit for speeding up the establishment of this new social service.

Nothing in the government's record of accomplishments since they took office has brought more satisfaction to our people than the administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The people of Middlesex West, together with the people in all parts of

Canada, will stand firmly behind the government in providing a fair deal for our veterans. All proposals and recommendations made by the Canadian Legion for improving the legislation and regulations in connection with veterans affairs have been given sympathetic consideration and, when possible, put into effect.

I have heard much recently about repeal of section 34 of the Combines Investigation Act. I believe that this proposal involves fundamental rights of individuals as well as fundamental rights of the public. Before a decision is made I would suggest that this matter be referred to a competent independent tribunal for investigation and recommendation.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, may I say that the record of our government and the confidence which they enjoy amongst the people in all parts of Canada, constitutes abundant reason why these amendments now before us should be voted down.

(Translation):

Mr. Augustin Brassard (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, we usually see in the chair the Speaker of this house and we take pleasure in telling him how we appreciate his work among us. Tonight I am happy to see the Acting Speaker occupy the chair as this gives me the opportunity to pay him a tribute for his sense of fairness and also for his sense of humour, although the occasion to show the latter seldom arises.

I would beg the Acting Speaker to be kind enough to convey to the Speaker the following message. I too have great pleasure in seeing again this year the Speaker of the house preside over the sometimes stormy proceedings of this assembly. Even though we are all aware that in view of the deeply human phase of his training, his extensive knowledge and his culture he is destined to still higher functions, if possible, we will be sorry to see the day when we are deprived of the pleasure of appreciating daily his sense of fairness and also, as in your case, Mr. Acting Speaker, his sense of humour which makes things so much easier in the heat of the debates.

Like the previous speakers, I congratulate the movers of the address in reply to the speech from the throne (Mr. Jorgenson and Mr. Fortin).

Both were a credit to their party and to their constituencies by the way in which they fulfilled the difficult and challenging task given to them by the right hon. Prime Minister of this country (Mr. Diefenbaker).