

The Address—Mr. Fraleigh

The shoreline of Lake Huron is blessed with large expanses of sandy beaches. This asset has created a tourist industry that is vital to the towns and villages in close proximity to this area.

Not only are there large areas of privately owned cottages, there are also public beaches and two of the finest provincial parks in Ontario. One of these parks, the Pinery Provincial Park, has enormous sand dunes gracing its shoreline which are unique to this area. Several excellent harbours attract large numbers of boaters to the area, including many Americans.

In addition to these excellent recreational facilities, the riding of Lambton-Middlesex has several significant historical attractions which attract a large number of visitors. Rock Glen, which is adjacent to the village of Arkona, has yielded a treasure of fossils. That municipality has moved to preserve this unique heritage with an excellent museum in that area containing thousands of items from the region.

Furthermore, the first oil discovery in North America was in Lambton County at the Village of Oil Springs. This oil bubbled to the surface and did not require any drilling. A museum on the site contains all the equipment that was used in those early days.

Just six miles away, adjacent to the Town of Petrolia, is the site of the first drilled oil wells in Canada. While their operation became uneconomical a good many years ago, recently the town restored the site to its original state. It is now producing again and is a unique tourist attraction.

These varied tourist attractions attract thousands of visitors to the riding of Lambton-Middlesex and are an important part of our economy.

I would be remiss if I did not make reference before closing, to the gas storage fields which lie beneath the fields in the Townships of Dawn and Moore. These are huge natural subterranean cavities into which natural gas from western Canada is pumped via pipeline in the summer months at a time when demand is low. These natural cavities hold billions of cubic feet of natural gas.

Not only does this allow the country to make more efficient use of our pipeline facilities, it supplies an important buffer if there are any major breakdowns in the cross-country pipeline system.

I was most pleased that I had the opportunity to return to my riding after the delivery of the Throne Speech and the financial statement by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). It allowed me to get an impression of how ordinary Canadians viewed these two most important documents.

Let me say for the benefit of Hon. Members opposite that the people of Lambton-Middlesex could not be any further removed from Bay Street. However, their response to the direction in which the Government is going was one of wholehearted support. I would suggest that the members of the two Opposition Parties go out into the streets of their ridings to find out what the people are saying. I am sure they will be surprised to discover that the people are in full agreement with the Government program which is designed to stimulate eco-

nomie growth and create permanent jobs in a framework of fiscal responsibility.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Are there any questions or comments on the Hon. Member's maiden speech?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question. When the Hon. Member is talking about the tax system, justice and social programs, instead of his Government starting discussions to try and modify what is referred to as the universality of pension plans and programs that affect Canadians on very low incomes, would it not have been preferable to review the indexing table for personal income tax? If I am not mistaken, the net result of this particular measure is to increase benefits to the rich and give less to the poor. Let me give an example I found in the documents tabled by your Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson): a single individual with an income of \$7,500 gets only \$54, while someone with an income of \$100,000 saves \$460. Do you not think that to reduce the deficit, your Government and your Minister of Finance should have tinkered with that program instead of with the universality of pensions and unemployment insurance?

[*English*]

Mr. Fraleigh: Mr. Speaker, I did not realize that I had raised the question that was posed by the Hon. Member opposite. However, since he has raised the question, I would be pleased to inform him that there are no easy answers. There will be hardships, and it has been the Government's position that everyone share in those hardships in a fair and equitable manner. I believe that, as a result of his financial statement, the Minister of Finance has done an excellent job in having the economy and various sectors of the country share those hardships.

If the Hon. Member had spent the weekend on the streets in his riding as I did in mine, he would have found that most people would agree with that assessment.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Malépart: I may point out to the Hon. Member that I go down the streets of my constituency on week days as well as on weekends, and that I am a good defender of my constituents' interests, since I was re-elected on my own merits.

Mr. Speaker, I can inform the Hon. Member that the measure I just mentioned is one his Government has introduced, a measure that provides very substantial assistance to the rich. This is not some time in the future, it is here and now. Just read the supplementary information. Instead of shouting, the Hon. Member who did so should stand up and defend his constituents. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know whether the Hon. Member agrees with what the Minister of Finance has just done.

[*English*]

Mr. Fraleigh: Wholeheartedly, Mr. Speaker.