

Speech from the Throne

Trois-Rivières-Ouest, with a population of 8,000, is a young dynamic town which has only been in existence for eight years. From a suburb, it has turned into an active town where housing construction is developing constantly.

The three cities of Trois-Rivières, Cap-de-la-Madeleine, and Trois-Rivières-Ouest constitute in effect a metropolitan area which in turn contains the riding.

I am pleased to give credit here to the three mayors who govern the fates of those cities in a dynamic way and with a spirit of co-operation, in the best interest of the metropolitan area in general.

[*English*]

In the few months I have spent in this House, I have learned a great deal about my colleagues, those who face me as well as those who sit on this side. They are a living example and a true picture of Canadians working for the betterment of all Canadians from all parts of the country. Indeed, debates can be heated at times and tempers can flare, but this is Parliament at work.

• (1500)

[*Translation*]

Through the policy set forth this morning, the government intends first of all to take steps to stimulate our economy. Those measures will promote trade exchanges and facilitate the financing of Canadian exporters. The maintenance of consumer price stability is also provided for, while increased assistance to secondary industries will enable them to develop further. Those measures will stimulate the economy in general and be of benefit to industry and labour alike.

The House will also be asked to deal with a measure to increase the number of jobs through better use of the competence and initiative of those who are looking for work. A new labour code will also be studied, which will take into account the many representations received in the last few months.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with the proposed legislation and without commenting them all, I believe I can say that they augur well.

The member has a varied role. Not only is he a link between his constituents as well as their spokesman in Ottawa, but he also acts as a legislator who considers bills and discusses them in the committees or in the House. On occasion, he will serve as a delegate at international organizations such as the UN and NATO. The image of the member is often warped. He is too often put on a pedestal; he becomes an almost unapproachable character who lives off the fat of the land in the capital. Parliamentary proceedings keep him in Ottawa five days weekly and the problems of his constituents often compel him to work on Saturdays and Sundays. It is just the same

an engrossing work and the member derives his greatest satisfaction from the knowledge that he has been of some assistance to an individual and has supported a bill which will benefit all Canadians.

I would feel remiss if I did not at least briefly point out the achievements of the government during the past three years. In all fields, amendments have been made to existing legislation, or new laws have replaced those which had become obsolete. All levels of society have benefited from this government policy.

In the field of social policy, we have had amendments to the Old Age Security Act and an increase of veterans pensions. As regards the protection of the citizen and his rights, we have looked after the consumer's protection through measures such as the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act and the Weights and Measures Act.

In the field of labour, the new Unemployment Insurance Act provides for increased benefits for thousands of beneficiaries. The same holds true as regards economic expansion. More recently, we have had the establishment of the Department of Environment and the arctic waters pollution legislation.

And I did not mention such programs as Opportunities for Youth or Local Initiatives, which have benefited thousands of Canadians in all walks of life.

Before closing, I should like to say how happy I am to learn that the government will be creating three national parks in the Canadian north. Now, each of Canada's provinces and territories will be represented in our national park system. Our fellow citizens of the St. Maurice Valley are very happy to have obtained one of Quebec's first two parks, and the consequences are already being felt. In addition to creating hundreds of direct jobs, this project has led to the implementation of the Trans-Quebec Highway between Trois-Rivières and the national park, through a \$4 million-dollar contribution by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

The St. Maurice Valley National Park will mark the beginning of the new touristic calling of our area, owing to the very rich history of Trois-Rivières and of its gallant pioneers.

At the outset, I mentioned the aggressiveness, the wisdom and the courage of the Prime Minister. Indeed these qualities were essential for him to initiate the program which he has carried out and the one which will be introduced to the House in the months to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the motion proposed by my colleague, the hon. member for Bruce (Mr. Whicher).

[*English*]

On motion of Mr. Stanfield, the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. MacEachen, the House adjourned at 3.09 p.m.