

In the city of Laval, the federal government has paid more than \$18 million for the construction of polyvalent schools.

Under its adult professional training program, from April 1, 1969 to January 31, 1970, the federal government has paid to Laval an amount of \$559,675 for the purchase of courses from the Quebec Department of Education and \$766,830 in allowances. At the Quebec level, the contributions amounted to \$31,612,780 in allowances and over \$23 million have been affected to the purchase of courses.

To abstain from divulging this information, Mr. Speaker, could tend to support certain arguments still going on in Quebec.

At the beginning of my statement, I pointed out that the Laval constituency was situated on Île Jésus between the back river, Rivière des Prairies and the Rivière des Milles-Îles. Those two rivers are unfortunately utterly polluted and every spring when the waters rise, the rivers overflow their banks. Every spring, the residents of Laval-Ouest, Sainte-Rose, Saint-Eustache, Rosemère, Bois-des-Fillions, etc., sustain considerable damage. Thousands of dollars are spent by residents every year because of flooding. Deposits from these polluted waters contaminate the two river banks.

My predecessor, the hon. member for Ahuntsic (Mr. Rochon) when he was member for Laval, drew attention to this problem time and again. In those days it was a priority, but today it has become a crucial problem. The project to channel the water from these rivers would control the water level and eliminate damage and losses. The dredging of these two rivers is not only a priority but an emergency. The alarm has been sounded. An anti-pollution program must be carried out. I beg the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Laing) to grant the request of the members representing the interested constituencies who have submitted briefs on the subject.

In closing, I warmly congratulate the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Lessard), first on his appointment as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson), and also for his speech on the agricultural situation in Canada, in which he familiarized hon. members with the existing crisis in the Quebec poultry market. I think this is an urgent problem and in order to solve it we are asking for the co-operation of all hon. members.

• (2:10 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak in this debate. First, I should like to congratulate the mover (Mr. Trudel) and the seconder, (Mr. Douglas (Assiniboia)), of the address on the capable manner in which they carried out their duties.

The Speech from the Throne is an amazing document, a document long on philosophy but short on policy. On page one, the author of this grim fairy tale states:

We live in a period of tenseness and unease. It is an age frequented by violence as desperate men seek ill-defined goals;

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an age of frustration as gentle men question impatiently old assumptions. It is an age in which the life-support systems of the biosphere may collapse unless man reverses his present course and begins again to live in harmony, rather than in competition, with his environment. It is an age in which the forces of science and technology now in motion are so massive, so swift, and so comprehensive that man may be facing his last opportunity to control his own destiny rather than be subject to it.

• (2:20 p.m.)

These words, Mr. Speaker, remind me of the words in a book which was first published in 1859. The first chapter, by Charles Dickens, of "A Tale of Two Cities" reads:

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of believe; it was the epoch of incredulity; it was the season of light; it was the season of darkness; it was the spring of hope; it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us; we had nothing before us; we were all going direct to heaven; we were all going direct the other way!

Things have not changed very much since 1859, for I note a marked similarity between the words of Dickens and the words of the Throne Speech, and unfortunately a marked similarity between the conditions described by Dickens and conditions as they exist today. The speech says that the decade of the seventies extends beyond our present vision, and that is the understatement of the day. In fact, that is one of the troubles with this government; it lacks vision. In proverbs we read that when there is no vision the people perish.

In another paragraph, the speech states that man must anticipate and plan; that he must accept that contentment and indifference are illusory; that the most dramatic reality is change; that there is more need that ever before to preserve as constant values truth, honesty, excellence and relevance. Was there ever a period when man was not required to anticipate and plan ahead? And was there ever a period when man's plans were more frustrated than they are today by the present federal government?

The Throne Speech speaks of truth and honesty, and then goes on to say that unemployment remains distressingly high in some parts of Canada, although the rate has not increased significantly in recent months. Well, I do not know what figures the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was looking at when he made that statement, but according to the press the federal government paid out \$43.9 million in unemployment benefits during July, up from \$41 million in June and up from \$25 million in July, 1969. Canadians made 148,000 new claims against the unemployment insurance fund in July, up from 120,000 the year before. In all, there were 439,000 people claiming benefits at the end of July, 160,000 more than the year before. On top of this, the proportion of people who have been on unemployment insurance for more than six months rose to 23 per cent from 15 per cent a year ago.

What is the prediction for the future? According to the *Financial Times* for September 21, unemployment is still high and the worst is yet to come. We have 6.9 per cent of our labour force unemployed at present, but recent lay-off announcements in the electronics and chemical