

*The Address—Mr. Lachance*

● (1530)

I now wish to move, seconded by the hon. member for Lafontaine-Rosemont (Mr. Lachance), that the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Jules Léger, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, Chancellor and Commander of the Order of Military Merit, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Claude-André Lachance (Lafontaine-Rosemont):** Mr. Speaker, I am proud to second the motion of the hon. member for Restigouche (Mr. Harquail), and I share this pride with the citizens of the constituency of Lafontaine-Rosemont who had the courage, in 1974, to elect the youngest member of parliament.

I should like to take this opportunity to join in the tributes paid to the late Mrs. Albanie Morin by several distinguished members of this House, and to express my sincere sympathy to her family.

[*English*]

I should also like at the outset of this session to pay tribute to Mr. Speaker whose impartiality and clear-sightedness have so often lighted a path for our debates over the last two sessions.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Lachance:** Finally, I would like to express the wish that the ideal that moves all members will be reflected in our forthcoming proceedings and that wholesome discussion will not develop into virulent confrontations generated by too fiercely partisan political passions. My colleague, the member for Restigouche, has given an eloquent picture of the physical and social configurations of his riding and the proposed government measures which are bound to promote its development.

My own riding is located in another area of the Canadian mosaic and differs on several aspects from the local characteristics as defined by the hon. member who spoke before me. Indeed, Lafontaine-Rosemont with its 60,000 people is a densely populated area with a population that is 90 per cent French-speaking. The average constituent there is either a skilled or a semi-skilled worker and he earns what is regarded as an average income. Its population is much older than the metropolitan average and this is in part due to the proportionately greater number of single people and also the shifting of young households to the housing developments in the Montreal suburbs where living space is less restricted.

[Mr. Harquail.]

Lafontaine-Rosemont is actually a section which is considered by several as being a semi-grey area, and it is close to housing subdivisions which are themselves identified as priority areas and the proximity of which submits it to strong pressures that are seriously endangering the balance between construction sites and the environment. In fact, in recent years, the changes in land use that occurred in downtown Montreal and in its outskirts have led to a substantial reduction in the already restricted number of low rental housings in Montreal. Those changes and the demolitions they brought about also resulted in population shifts that are already being felt in the fringe districts of those areas, especially Rosemont.

Besides, when compared with the priority areas, Lafontaine-Rosemont has the best residential homogeneity as its industrial component makes up only 4.4 per cent of the entire area. Finally, Lafontaine-Rosemont is what is commonly known as a "renting district" as only 10 per cent of housing accommodations are owner-occupied.

[*English*]

It will be readily understood why I have taken note with interest of the particular emphasis laid by the government on the problem of housing. The government has renewed its promise to leave nothing undone to provide Canadians with proper housing at prices they can afford.

Finally, there is no doubt the people of Lafontaine-Rosemont will benefit from the new emphasis placed on assistance to small businesses—these are to be found everywhere in my constituency—as announced in the Speech from the Throne, along with a whole series of stimuli of various kinds which the government intends putting forward to help in the further development and prosperity of such small businesses.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, we must emphasize here that whatever may be the physical and social texture of Canada, with its differences, its disparities, and even too often its opposing interests, the speech from the Throne outlines positive steps from which each and every Canadian can benefit and which, no doubt, will have both a local and national impact. Whether in the areas of government restraint, of the growing rate of the public service, of the fight against inflation, of international trade, of the incentives to private enterprise, of the creation of permanent jobs, of the updating of the Unemployment Insurance Act, of the new immigration legislation, of collective or sectorial bargaining, of labour relations, of the legislation governing competition, of energy conservation, of renewable resources, of social security for the aged, the young and the handicapped, of the changes to the Canada Pension Plan with respect to the spouses that stay at home, of fiscal arrangements with the provinces of housing sport, family law, the pursuit of a new international economic order, the right to information, the control by the Auditor general over the federal administration, the implementation of a bill of rights and the broadcasting of our debates, the speech from the Throne meets the needs of a changing society which constantly seeks to improve its living conditions and aspires to increased social justice while main-