

The Address—Mr. Malépart

An Hon. Member: Yes it has.

Mrs. Champagne: It has not been cut. Let me tell the Hon. Member that we are merely maintaining the amount which may be paid each week to the same level as last year. Where did the money go? The Hon. Member should ask his fellow Opposition Members!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The period for questions and comments has now expired.

[English]

Before I recognize the next Member, may I bring to the attention of Hon. Members that earlier today during Routine Proceedings under the heading "Introduction of Bills", the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East (Mr. Allmand) introduced a Private Members' Public Bill to amend the Criminal Code. The seconder of that motion was stated as being the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner). I have since been informed that the seconder of the motion was in fact the Hon. Member for Laurier (Mr. Berger). The record of Parliament will reflect this change.

I would now like to recognize the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart).

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, first of all, as most Members of this House have already done, I wish to congratulate you and your colleagues on your respective appointments. I would like to start my speech by thanking the people of Sainte-Marie for giving me a third mandate to represent their riding in the Parliament of Canada. Today, Mr. Speaker, I want to give them the assurance that I shall continue, as I have done in the past, to work together with the groups in my riding to improve the quality of life of my constituents.

As far as youth is concerned, despite the cuts made by the Conservative government in a number of programs that were not merely needed but desperately needed by the young people in my riding, I can assure them that in conjunction with the Action jeunesse office I set up myself in my riding, we shall continue to increase the number of services offered to these young people. These services include teaching them how to find that first job if only this government would stop raising unemployment; how to find out which subjects to take in high school; and we are also offering various kinds of recreational services.

As far as senior citizens are concerned, they may rest assured, Mr. Speaker, that as in the past, I will be organizing an annual seminar or meeting with all those responsible for taking care of senior citizens, while senior citizens themselves will have an opportunity to attend a meeting and find out about the various programs being offered by all levels of government to help this segment of our population to provide various services appropriate to their needs. I find this is also an opportunity to consult them, to find out about their concerns, and the Government has asked us . . . You may be sure that on

February 15, I will have a meeting to inform these people about what the Government intends to do about the universality of old age pensions.

Mr. Speaker, although this Government unfortunately found it necessary to make cuts in subsidized housing, I intend to continue, with the co-operation of municipal and provincial representatives, to ensure that low-cost housing will be built in my riding, as well as co-operative housing projects to meet the needs of families, the handicapped and senior citizens. Mr. Speaker, I also want my constituents to know that right after September 4, with a community group from my area, we set up an organization that will provide advice and assistance for tenants in my riding who are faced with unreasonably high rent increases by a few landlords who are only interested in land speculation. These people may rest assured that they now have an organization that will defend their rights.

As for my role in the House of Commons, I can assure my constituents of Sainte-Marie that when the government introduces satisfactory legislation meeting their needs and expectations, I will support them. On the other hand, if programs, legislation and regulations detrimental to low or average income citizens are introduced, I will oppose them strongly and make sure that the government is fair in trying to meet their needs.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to refer to the throne speech. I believe, as you and most members in this House do, Mr. Speaker, that everybody was disappointed with that speech. After 20 years in the opposition, many seminars and conventions and the setting up of many committees, I thought, like the new Conservative members, that the Progressive Conservative Party would waste no time and have specific programs ready since they made so many promises and commitments. What do we find in the throne speech? Nothing. There is nothing for a million and a half unemployed, no specific measure for the young or for consumers, nothing about the housing policy, for single parent families, for farmers or fishermen and nothing about pension reform.

● (1640)

Why did Canadians vote for changes? They did so because hon. members opposite had led us to believe that there would be changes for the better, but they are for the worse. It is they who have deceived the public and not the other way around.

Mr. Speaker, everyone knows and all the polls show that Canadians believe the major problem in Canada is unemployment. However, the major problem for business leaders and high finance is the deficit. Who did the Conservatives listen to? They listened to the big wigs, the VIPs; and gave priority to the deficit. I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that the party opposite ever intended to create jobs.

I have leafed through the throne speech, and I found it interesting in two places. When I read that the Government would organize a tripartite summit attended by labour,