

The Address—Mr. Jamieson

Some citizens of my riding are fishermen, although because of pollution that industry has become less profitable. The government should take special steps to safeguard the industry and protect the sources of income of those who are involved in this field.

As for existing industries, in order to develop normally they would require financing at very low interest rates, in order to bring down their production cost and become competitive.

The Throne Speech mentions this problem. I hope that bills and legislation to be introduced in the House will be drafted in the same spirit and that the Throne Speech will not have merely raised false hopes.

For several years, we have been hearing about industrial decentralization but unfortunately, because of lack of adequate services in several towns in eastern Quebec, inadequate communications and high cost of transportation, those who are interested in opening new industries still go to the major centres and we, of the Lower St. Lawrence are missing the bus. This explains the ever increasing number of unemployed in remote areas.

The Throne Speech states that further steps will also be taken to reduce regional disparities persisting in spite of the action already announced in previous Throne Speeches.

The government says that additional funds will be assigned to LIP. I hope it does so soon to enable the officials of the Department of Manpower and Immigration to approve a greater number of applications because, to date, we have witnessed a real disaster in that many worthy projects have been turned down for lack of funds. How can a program intended to create jobs do so when most of the projects are turned down? The government is only bluffing which I think is not very wise on its part.

In any event, I ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration to see to it that the state pay some attention to my riding and show enough understanding to create jobs if it cannot manage to convince industries to move in. The Social Credit party of Canada, of which I am an elected member, presented the people with an economic security program comprising a guaranteed annual income for all.

I must say that voters in my constituency have given a majority vote to this program. Therefore, it is my duty to tell the government that they will have to introduce good legislation in order to reach this goal and to eradicate as much as possible this unbearable situation where poverty exists in the midst of affluence. So, I can hardly wait for the tabling of bills intended for the realization of objectives mentioned in the speech from the Throne to this effect.

Senior citizens, disabled and unemployed people are worried by the constant increase in the cost of living as they cannot benefit from corresponding increases in their income.

On behalf of all the people of my constituency and of the Gaspé region, I ask the government to take immediate steps to insure security and freedom to the labour force, the farmers and every family, as well as more stable employment for our fine youth who ask nothing more than to work for our beautiful and great country.

[Mr. Allard.]

In conclusion, I wish to raise the subject of abortion which is getting to be a real problem in Canada. The government should take a different attitude in this regard and should be more concerned with education. It should try to open a greater number of family planning clinics for consultation so as to try and stop the action of those who kill instead of facing the real problems of life.

Finally, family allowances should be raised substantially and distributed better, so that the mothers and couples in financial difficulty could keep and raise their children.

[*English*]

• (2010)

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Sir, may I at the outset join all members of the House in extending to you and to the Speaker of the House our congratulations—condolences might be the appropriate word—on your unanimous election to these high posts. I hope you will forgive me, Sir, if I say in passing that I am particularly pleased with your appointment because, as you well know, our association goes back a great many years and I think it can be said that since the 1950s we have shared a genuine and deep concern for maximum communication with the people of Canada and for the proper utilization of the media in this country.

I should like to tell my colleagues in all parts of this House that the Deputy Speaker of this chamber is a man who has a profound wisdom and knowledge about the media and who has, to a very rare and unusual extent, a comprehension of both the positive and dangerous sides of the new developments that are occurring in communications. I can think of no one more suited than yourself, Sir, to hold the high and honoured post which you now occupy, which has been given to you with the unanimous consent of all members of this House. I am happy to endorse that election.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jamieson: I should also like to convey to Mr. Speaker the congratulations of all members upon his elevation, if that is the correct word. I notice that he is in the chamber. I have found him, in my several years in this chamber, to be not only a man of sagacity and wisdom but a man of profound common sense. There is a difference, sometimes, between sagacity and wisdom and common sense, but he employs them with a rare combination and blending of which we are all very proud. We are happy to have him back as our Speaker in this particular assembly.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jamieson: For a particular reason I also wish to compliment the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I suppose one tends to get into something of a rut in this connection after one has been here a reasonable period of time, but I keep saying during each throne speech debate that I did have the honour of moving the address in reply in our centennial year. I say that now with a rather special significance but with no apology for having repeated it, as I said, before because I remember with vividness and unabashed and unashamed sentimentality, when sitting, as I was