

*The Address—Mr. Matte*

is to bring to the population the full freedom of the human person. "Make financially possible what is physically workable" is not an election slogan and much less a meaningless propaganda, but a concrete solution to the basic problems of our society.

With unemployment at a record high, who can claim there is a shortage of manpower? With all our natural resources, raw materials and everything we need as a base for production, who can question the unparalleled wealth of the country? Finally, with all the talent required for planning, programming and implementing, who could dare claim that our colleges and universities are empty?

With all these assets it is simply ridiculous to sit and wait for capital. What better security to issue our own credit than all these priceless assets around us? By what right do bankers and other high finance figures hold us at their mercy? Only the right we are willing to grant them. Unfortunately, to date all governments have been swapping their birthright against a mess of pottage.

It is pitiful to see all our public institutions creep and crawl before capital and capitalists. That is the problem, Mr. Speaker. Bloated interest rates, spiralling prices, in short inflation, result from the stupid lack of judgment jealously nurtured by the Establishment which, in order not to stray from the established order continues to rush in the blind alley of the present financial system.

Mr. Speaker, let me point out to the House the specific points of greater concern to the people of the Champlain constituency which I have the great honour of representing. Needless to say that all I have said until now is a reflection of the feelings expressed by the people of my constituency. Dissatisfaction is almost general. Farmers realize that everything is going to pot. The leadership given by this government with regard to dairy production is an open war against small producers who are being wiped out. The average producers are hard-set to keep going. If they exceed their quotas, they will be denied subsidies; if they increase their output, they are punished. What is left for them to do? As for the big producers, they are overworked. Because they have to hire employees, their income is reduced accordingly. What is left for them to do also? This befuddling situation is far from improving, especially when the Prime Minister, on one of his many trips, promises that New Zealand cows will soon be supplying butter to Canada.

The condition of the workers is hardly better. Industries are getting scarce in the Champlain constituency, and all the municipal authorities are quite astonished to find that, with the exception of Sainte-Marthe-du-Cap, no other municipality is recognized as a designated area. Resolutions on that subject submitted by the cities of La Tuque, Saint-Tite, Sainte-Thècle and several others had no result. Fortunately the tourist industry is developing. The swimming race called "les 24 heures de la Tuque" was once again a big hit this year. But to organize it, it is still necessary to overcome big financial difficulties. The tremendous initiative of the population should be encouraged by a substantial grant. The same

situation exists in Saint-Tite where the greatest "western" festival of eastern Canada is held at the end of the summer.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to mention the national park of the St. Maurice Valley. I was very pleased to hear that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) had signed last summer an agreement with the Quebec government for the development of that park.

The whole thing was done very quickly and took us nearly unawares, at least as far as I am concerned, as I received the kind invitation to attend the signature of the agreement only the day before the event, when I was in Edmonton at the Social Credit convention to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Social Credit government of Alberta.

I suspect that the minister acted very quickly in order to quell the mounting pressure brought to bear by the committee that wanted the park located on the east bank of the Saint-Maurice River at Great Mekinac Lake.

The choice of site No. 1 is quite questionable considering the following factors: First, this site is not so much to the advantage of the St. Maurice Valley residents; it is a sort of dead end as it is not on a specific scenic drive; second, development costs may prove exorbitant because of land expropriation, access roads and a bridge needed to link the area with the upper St. Maurice Valley; third, it is doubtful whether or not that park will become profitable because tourists stay in such parks only when located along a scenic drive. For instance, while touring the Gaspé peninsula, they will stop over in the Forillon park. While touring the Lac Saint-Jean area, they will stay for a while in the Laurentian provincial park. They will get to the Abitibi area by going through the La Verendrye park. That is why it would have been logical to include that park in the scenic triangle formed by Trois-Rivières, Shawinigan, Grand'Mère, La Tuque, Roberval and Quebec.

I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that I am not insisting on a site in my own riding, for the limits of that park lie for the greater part within the Champlain riding. It is a question of choosing a site that is really advantageous for the whole population of the St. Maurice Valley area. I feel that no really serious study has been made about the possibility of another site. The explanations given to date by the minister are not satisfactory and I should like him to enlighten us in this regard.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues in this House, I should like to voice my bewilderment over the recent distressing events in our country and, in particular, in the province of Quebec. However, this does not surprise me much. For many years too many leaders have been hiding their heads in the sand and have turned themselves into a challenge before the eyes of an impatient youth. Loose living in our society whose ideals and morals are declining, is too often encouraged by the government itself. Very bad examples are set for our young people. The life of two hostages is at stake. Everyone at this time realizes what a precious asset life

[Mr. Matte.]