

*Speech from the Throne*

pleased that those of my comrades who have shown courage and energy and offered their life to defend their country may enjoy the highest pension in the world. They were the best. The Canadian people surely appreciate the rightful token of gratefulness.

These various pieces of social legislation, Mr. Speaker, are the mark of a government whose total efforts make possible fair distribution of the country's resources to everyone.

In the economic field, we have seen the acumen, the common sense and the prudence the government displayed, enabling us to weather the period during which our neighbours were imposing a surcharge on their imports, of course for the purpose of protecting their industry. What country in the world was in such a critical position as ours, as a result of our proximity and of a certain degree of economic dependency. The outcome of the negotiations which followed these measures, skillfully conducted by our Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), will restore to Canadian industry a competitive position on the vast American market and make a positive contribution to sustaining the economic revival which could already be felt in the spring of 1971.

During the past 12 months, Mr. Speaker, in spite of that setback, we achieved new records in development and the rate of growth of our gross national product exceeded that of all industrialized countries. Other equally meaningful results were obtained as a result of the confidence the government placed in Canadians. Thus the Local Initiatives and Opportunities for Youth programs are instances of new, bold ventures of which we can be proud.

The new parks to be developed to the north of the 60th parallel and which will soon acquire an enviable renown will bring to 28 the total number of our national parks. These parks are not meant only for the inhabitants of the surrounding areas. They are national lands the government of Canada is reserving for the whole population and future generations. Under the act, they are dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, their education and their enjoyment. Recognizing the increasing importance of maintaining contact with nature and indeed drawing closer to it, the people of my constituency are viewing with great interest and patience the efforts being made to turn a part of the country into a national park.

Thanks also to such outstanding talents, Canadians are in the forefront in the field of satellite communications whereby every citizen will be integrated into the great Canadian family.

As we mention the judgment, the energy and the wisdom of the Canadian people, we may notice that those are the qualities of the Prime Minister who was able to carry out the projects that are useful to us and who continually takes up new challenges.

Mr. Speaker, we are now in a transition stage which will eventually open onto a new world, a world that will have been created by our own hands and our own will.

We will have to maintain the tradition and bring it into harmony with the vanguard performances that will allow us to go forward without interruption. And it is also thanks to the inventive and industrious spirit of Canadians that we shall succeed in creating a country in which all citizens without exception will be happy to live. By the

[Mr. Dupras.]

same token, we shall be able to help in a more tangible way the less developed countries.

It is by striving to provide equal opportunities to every citizen that we shall succeed in building a hospitable country. We can only endorse the conviction of the Prime Minister that there is room in Canada for any person and any region. This spirit of tolerance should be the essential feature of the Canadian people. The twentieth century will be ours only if our economic success and our social measures are achieved with an openness of mind which would once and for all enable every citizen to be accepted and to participate and not merely to express their wish for participation.

It is in that context that the French language units, both in the Armed Forces and in the Public Service, appear as a project that could give concrete form to what was only a pious wish. With those French language units, Mr. Speaker, French will become a working language in the Public Service and the Armed Forces. This original measure shows that our government is able to take up challenges in an original manner. Thanks to this project, French-speaking civil servants will better be able to show their professional qualifications in carrying out their duties and will thus increase their chances of promotion within the Canadian Public Service.

Our ancestors were faced with many challenges. They succeeded in finding original solutions in each case. We must face the challenges of today in the same spirit. So we shall have to devise new methods to protect the quality of the environment. The situation is critical in many cases. We must find original methods to protect our rivers and our lakes threatened by pollution, and others, so as to clean the water which already is thoroughly polluted. Also, we shall have to devise measures to save certain species of our wildlife which are threatened with extinction. Only through dynamic action shall we be able to meet these challenges. In this country which we are building for ourselves and for the future generations, the time is for action and not nostalgia.

The most important challenge lies indeed in the field of job creation. We are now facing new circumstances which no one could have foreseen. Technology has totally disrupted our approach to work. Not only must we consider developing new work methods, but it is our very concept of work which we shall have to alter. We must adjust without delay. Those who will have neither the strength nor the courage to do so will be left logging behind their own times. But our spirit of innovation will enable us to develop a society in which life will be well worth living. The initiative, creativeness and ability of our workers and of those who are seeking employment must be put to better use if we are to reach this goal. The present situation is but another challenge to our will to fight.

To show as much wisdom as justice sometimes represents a difficult dilemma. Still in that field, we must make suggestions, provide all the tools needed and intervene judiciously. Only thus shall we bring about ingenious and fruitful initiatives.

Gloomy thoughts and set ideas are out. People who are always afraid to take initiatives and who lack imagination are not with it. Canadians want to go ahead; the government will give them the opportunity to do so.