

The Address—Mr. Gourde

that Canadians always have a better understanding of the circumstances of fellow Canadians in other Provinces when they are given a detailed description of the daily experience of our constituents. The riding of Lévis, as most people know, borders on the impressive St. Lawrence River, and is situated across that river from Quebec City. Events that will take place in 1984 with the arrival of the tall ships will, I am sure, arouse the enthusiasm of the people of Lévis. People tend to talk about "Québec 84", but it is a fact that half of the observation site is located on the south shore facing Quebec City. The people of Lévis will no doubt benefit from the publicity around this extraordinary international event, and the Canadian Government is already involved, in that it has provided financial support for the 1534-1984 Corporation and Destination Rive-Sud, and I wish their promoters every success.

The riding I have represented since May 4, 1981, as a result of a by-election, is a major growth area, demographically speaking, and appears to rank second, in this respect, in the Province of Quebec. Towns which a few years ago were quite small, such as Saint-Jean-Chrysostome, Bernières, Saint-Nicolas and Saint-Etienne, have now all been incorporated and have a very young population. Lévis is a mainly urban riding, although there are a number of large farming operations in the southern part which many Quebec farmers would be proud to own.

It is not easy to describe a riding like Lévis, since its position on the South Shore directly opposite Quebec City would lead us to believe that it has a full range of resources. Actually, there is farming, there are three industrial parks, three major industrial entities which alone employ more than 5,000 workers. There is a major regional hospital, educational institutions that enjoy a considerable reputation in Quebec such as the Collège Lévis and the Lévis-Lauzon CEGEP, and there is also one of our major financial institutions which everyone has heard of, namely, the Mouvement Desjardins.

It is quite true that the people who pioneered on the South Shore had to work hard to make this region one of the major growth areas in the Province of Quebec and in Canada. Their healthy chauvinism has put considerable weight in the balance, in the David-and-Goliath relationship between the South Shore and the North Shore in the Quebec city area.

Today, I would like to discuss some of the topics that caught our attention in the speech made by his Excellency the Governor General yesterday. The Governor General stressed the development of a consensus among business, labour and Government. Our Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) has been active in this respect and has succeeded in opening the way toward such a consensus. In fact, the last budget was largely the result of consultations, and the same process is already under way in connection with the next budget. Neither Government nor labour nor business alone can guarantee Canada's prosperity. Together, in a spirit of co-operation, they will be able to succeed. The Governor General proposed the formation

of task forces in areas where the Government intends to stress this new spirit of co-operation.

The Throne Speech included a similar proposal for co-operation in the shipbuilding industry. I find this reassuring, and I am, in fact, very pleased. Canadians are aware of the problems besetting this vital sector of our economy. Recently, the Canadian Government announced it had let a large number of contracts for the construction of ships in Canada, for a total cost of approximately \$4 billion over a period of about twelve months. Unfortunately, the tenders made by Lauzon Shipyards were often well above the offers made by the lowest bidder. Last Thursday, we heard that Dome Petroleum intended to get rid of Davie, but Davie cannot be allowed to disappear. It is the major private sector employer in the Quebec City area, and any more or less long-term drop in activity would be a disaster, not only for the riding of Lévis but for the entire Quebec City area. Although the Canadian Government has let a contract for the construction of the *CN Marine* ferry worth \$121 million, another contract worth \$13 million for refitting the *Nipigon* and other lesser contracts, the shipyard is now operating at about 50 per cent of its capacity. It has been unable to get contracts, either from the Canadian Government or the private sector. Nevertheless, this Government has done everything it possibly could, and in fact, further major contracts are to be let in the months to come. I am sure that company management and employees will do everything in their power to compete successfully on other public tenders.

In my riding, when the shipyards are busy, business is fine. It should therefore not come as a surprise that the present Member for Lévis, like his predecessor, should bring up this subject time and time again. The Canadian Government has shown it is aware of the need to modernize our shipyards, and for a number of months, projects have been submitted to the Departments concerned. Early in the spring of 1982, an agreement seemed imminent on a major project for expansion and modernization, but the incredible collapse in Dome's financial situation snuffed out any hopes we might have had.

Today, a far more modest project is being planned. We support the principle and hope that Lauzon will soon have a shipyard that is more modern and better able to compete on the national and international scene. On June 29, the Government tabled a ways and means motion, and I realize now that the same notice of motion was again tabled yesterday. This ways and means motion provides for assistance to shipbuilders, and I am convinced that the motion will be supported by the Official Opposition. In addition, we hope it will be adopted in the next few days since a member of the Official Opposition gave his consent, and I am sure he did so on behalf of his party.

● (1550)

His Excellency recommends consultations among interested parties in the maritime sector. I am pleased with that because,