

*The Address—Mr. G. LeBlanc*

east of Quebec City. Besides being a business, administration and service centre, it has institutions of learning that are bringing it closer and closer to the day when it will become a university centre. There we find a marine school, the harbour facilities of Rimouski East, the harbour at Father Point, a deep water winter port, the Rimouski East airport, served mainly by Quebecair and a few small but growing industries. The Rimouski city council is now negotiating with the Quebec government for the establishment of an important industry to replace the saw-mill which Price Brothers had to close.

The people of my constituency realize that, thanks to the government's wise policies, Canada is prosperous. Still, due to urbanization and economic and technological changes, the very factors to which the general progress across the country may be attributed, and also, doubtless, due to past improvisations, our area, rich in both human and natural resources, suffers from economic and social imbalance.

That is why, the program advocated in recent years by the government with a view to fostering prosperity, social security, and equal opportunities for our young people, has been looked upon with confidence. True to its principles, the government, in the speech from the throne, has presented again a rejuvenated program, adapted to the problems of the day. We feel confident, because the implementation of this program is guaranteed by past accomplishments of this government. Every aspect of our national, social and economic life has been considered. Moreover, the government has provided for every citizen, mothers, young people, workers, farmers, industrialists. My constituents were happy to become acquainted with this objective legislation and they hope every member of the house will display the greatest dynamism during this session, above all taking into consideration the general good of our population.

Surely, we can but rejoice at the proposed legislation with regard to our international policy, the amendment of the constitution of Canada, the preservation and the strengthening of Canadian identity and unity, the selection of a distinctive anthem, in short the over-all proposed legislation.

However, we are primarily interested in legislation dealing with our immediate problems, and I am thinking here of legislation concerning unemployment insurance, the Fair

[Mr. LeBlanc (Rimouski).]

Wages and Hours of Labour Act, health services, education assistance, revision of the Crop Insurance Act, the establishment of a Canadian dairy commission, the creation of a fund for financing major rural development and the broadening of the Department of Forestry into a department of forestry and rural development.

In view of the social and economic conditions prevailing in our region, development projects financed by this government under the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act (ARDA) have been the ones appreciated most.

In 1956, the lower St. Lawrence economic planning council was already in existence and studies and activities carried out by that body tended to ensure better regional economic planning.

Thanks to the action taken by that organization, our area was designated in 1963 as a pilot development area. In July 1963, the regional councils set up the eastern Quebec development board, one of our projects financed by the governments under ARDA.

That non-profit making company, responsible for preparing a development plan for the pilot area, is the result of a regional initiative. It is a serious effort on the part of the government and the people to try a real experiment in planning.

The development board includes approximately 80 experts in various fields, both in research and in social work, and has an adequate clerical staff. In co-operation with various government services, the board has made an inventory of resources in the pilot area with the participation of the people as members of zone and local committees. A draft plan has been prepared and submitted to the population. The development plan itself will be published within a few months. Divisions of the plan will be agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining, tourism, industry and finance, transportation and the methods to implement the plan.

Once it has been approved by the population and the governments, we feel the plan should provide guidelines for all development policies in the area.

To implement that development plan, we believe it would be necessary, on the one hand, to develop our local policital structure along the lines of our democratic traditions and, on the other hand, to organize the public service at the regional or subregional levels to ensure co-ordination between the various departmental services. We are confident that