

major crises and has put on the statute books many outstanding legislative measures.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Harquail: It is my belief that this brilliant man, who is one of the most outstanding national leaders in the world, will lead us to another victory in the next election. He has demonstrated wisdom, foresight and courage in the Speech from the Throne, which expresses the basic philosophy of our party, a party of reform, which permits our government to answer the needs of our people in the areas where assistance is required the most. I can speak with some authority on this subject since my people have experienced extremely high seasonal unemployment.

Not only can we Liberals be proud of our past performance in bringing in the Canada Pension Plan, unemployment insurance, health and medicare plans, senior citizens' and social assistance programs which are of benefit to people in all walks of life, but once again here in this Speech from the Throne we are able to demonstrate in a real way our ability to accept our responsibility to govern and to bring forward policies and programs which will bring effective and beneficial results to those Canadians who desperately require our help.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Harquail: I am delighted to see that this government not only expresses its concern about unemployment in this country but is proposing concrete measures in this Speech from the Throne to alleviate unemployment in areas where it is most prevalent, such as in Restigouche. The implementation of such programs is vital to this region, and I am sure my constituents will appreciate this action.

I am encouraged by the government's intention to take some measures to discuss with the provinces arrangements to increase the effectiveness of training in both official languages in the school system all across Canada. It is to be hoped that these measures will encourage a better use of federal funds for this purpose, which has not been the case all too often in the past.

Another issue dealt with in the Speech from the Throne concerns equality of opportunity for regional economic fulfilment. I applaud the action which has been taken to combine the services of the Unemployment Insurance Commission and Manpower, year-round, direct job-creation programs, greater assistance to small businesses, the reinforcement of the market system, the reinforcement of reliance on individual enterprise as the mainspring of economic activity, to protect the public interest, and changes to be introduced to the National Transportation Act to protect against unfair freight rates. The government has shown its understanding of the fact that the maritimes can only develop and grow with special programs to assist in transportation costs.

We are encouraged to note another example of dynamic action on the part of the government on behalf of our fishermen in extending jurisdiction of the coastline to the 200-mile

limit by January 1, 1977. Another positive step taken by the government which should bring beneficial results to the people in my area is a program under which the federal government will work more closely with the farmers and the provinces to strengthen the structure and increase the productivity of Canadian agriculture.

Of encouragement to the less fortunate will be the measures contained in the new Social Services Act under which costs will be shared to assist especially the aged, children and the handicapped, together with provisions for pensions to spouses and for the resumption of the establishment of new daycare centres, and this type of assistance, across the country. Another measure to increase equal opportunities will be the resumption of indexing family allowance payments as of the 1st of next year to compensate for the rise in the cost of living during 1976.

A word about justice. I know that with the peace and security legislation which is to come the citizens in my riding will not want me to miss this opportunity to encourage the government to take a more forceful approach to the administration of justice across the country, such as, by way of example, a cutback in the present handing out of suspended sentences. Our people want justice and reason to prevail, but at the same time they want to see the respect for law, order and authority that should exist.

Mr. Speaker, tradition allows me on this occasion to say a few words about my riding, which was made famous not only by the beauty of the fighting Restigouche salmon and the natural splendour of its area, but also because of its place in history in the battle of the Restigouche in 1760. The citizens of Restigouche, whom I have the honour to represent in this House, are God-fearing, hard working and upstanding people who contribute unselfishly day by day to the fibres which make up the fabric of this nation.

Although, as I mentioned earlier, we belong to the less advantaged in this nation, due partly to lack of equal opportunities, we have overcome these disadvantages with our courage, determination and high spirit, qualities which are typical of the Canadians whom I am proud to represent.

Mr. Speaker, because of the regional co-operative approach which has been adopted by all representatives of the region in recent years, one can only foresee progress and good development, better regional transportation facilities. We can do nothing but progress and succeed in the future, especially with the help of the measures contained in the Speech from the Throne which will certainly create more equal opportunities in regions such as Restigouche.

With regard to recommendations of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization, I know the members of that committee have worked hard and well in their deliberations. Many good results will come from the eventual adoption of some of these worth while recommendations by this House, some of which I support, such as the cutting down of the length of speeches, which I intend to exercise today.