

The Address—Mr. Dube

also greatly enhance our engineering ability and associate Canada with one of the greatest undertakings of the century. Central Canada has its St. Lawrence seaway. The Pacific area will soon have its Columbia river treaty. Let us hope that the Quoddy will become the subject matter of the next treaty to be ratified between the United States and Canada.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of my remarks, I underlined the distressing situation in which our rural areas find themselves. Just as an example, the June 1963 issue of *L'Economiste Agricole* reported that the proportion of municipal taxes as compared to farm income in New Brunswick was 34 per cent, the highest percentage in the country. There is reason to hope however that the Byrne commission report submitted early this month shall bring about a better taxation distribution.

Our people are anxiously awaiting the implementation of ARDA. They have a right to expect that the forthcoming appointment of the minister of rural development will speed up the rehabilitation of their area.

In New Brunswick, potato producers are reorganizing themselves. Following a report submitted by the Whalen royal commission in 1962, the New Brunswick minister of agriculture set up three associations, one for potato producers, one for potato shippers and one for potato processors. And finally, in 1963, a joint committee made up of the directors of the three associations. It is greatly to be hoped that this new measure will give valuable help to industry in the province.

It is to be hoped in particular that through the federal Department of Trade and Commerce and its capable minister the present government will discover and develop new foreign markets. I urge the government to undertake a vigorous campaign to that end in the months to come.

We rely tremendously on the new federal Department of Industry to help us attract more diversified industrial capital to our depressed areas. I know that this department is still in the organization stage, but I hope that very soon the area development agency will be in a position to let us know in detail its plans with regard to the setting up of manufacturing and processing industries in our regions.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, we must first help ourselves. Our people realize now that the time for complaining is over. They understand that no government can solve all our problems, but they have a new spirit of confidence, of determination. Our municipalities, our public bodies, our chambers of

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commerce, our manufacturers, in short, all our people are co-operating in order to achieve a better world.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker, last November I had the privilege of leading a Canadian delegation to the ninth annual session of the NATO parliamentarians' conference in Paris. Reports of our contributions to the conference have been made to this house and have appeared in the press, so I do not propose to again go into all the deliberations and resolutions which were proposed at the five committee and the plenary sessions.

However, I wish to make a few general remarks, mainly to express my appreciation to all the members of our delegation for their diligence and for the magnificent spirit which they displayed at the meetings and in our travels abroad. Our delegation included 16 members of this house and two distinguished members from the other place, which members represented all political parties and came from almost all areas of the country. I must say, Mr. Speaker, that we got along fine, in complete harmony, and not once did our respective political affiliations or our different regional backgrounds interfere with our work or our mutual respect.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Dube: Mr. Speaker, as we associated with members of delegations from countries, and as we looked at Canada from a distance, I think we became better Canadians. We realized that in many ways we were much alike. We realized that our common Canadian aspirations were much stronger than the regional or racial issues which would divide us at home. We were very proud that the two official languages at this conference of 15 NATO countries were our own two Canadian official languages, English and French, and that we as Canadians were the delegation most fluent in both languages. We then found out, at least I did, that what was at times a source of friction at home had become an asset abroad. As compared with our NATO allies, we could not but feel that ours was indeed a very young country, and that we should become much more interested in preparing for our future than in enlarging upon our past and present difficulties.

Mr. Speaker, last Thursday in this house our Prime Minister delivered what I thought was a stirring address in favour of national unity. It is unfortunate indeed that some of us were apparently more interested in the breaking into of the Shawinigan armoury.

In my opinion the speech of the Prime Minister may become a landmark, a charter on national unity, whereas these armoury robberies will soon fade into oblivion.