

The Address—Mr. Bouchard

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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[Translation]

LOAN COMPANIES ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-9, an Act to amend the Loan Companies Act, the Trust Companies Act, the Bank Act and the Quebec Savings Bank Act with respect to certain regulatory matters.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Hon. Minister have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Speaker: When shall the Bill be read the second time? At the next sitting of the House?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed Friday, October 3 consideration of the motion of Mrs. Collins for an Address to Her Excellency the Governor General in reply to her Speech at the opening of the Session; and of the amendment of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra) (p. 44) and the sub-amendment of Mr. Broadbent (p. 57).

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege, today, to take part in the debate on the Speech from the Throne as the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Nevertheless, it is, in my opinion an even greater privilege to rise in the House as the Member for Roberval, which is what I am first here in the House. I think my Quebec colleagues are well aware of my feelings of pride for the riding I represent, the riding of Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean, which to me is one of the most important elements of the *Francophonie* inside this country.

Now, for the first time in the history of this riding, it has a Member who is a Minister, the Minister of Employment and Immigration. And naturally, the riding of Saguenay—Lac-

Saint-Jean wants to thank the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) for his particular concern for the regions of this country.

[English]

I wish to extend my congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, upon your election to the Chair of the House. That I, as a Quebecer, can rise in my place to congratulate a favourite son of British Columbia is a small but powerful reminder of the diversity and greatness of the country. I look forward to working with you, Sir, as we all strive to ensure that the House honourably and vigorously reflects this diversity and greatness.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne proposes a major challenge to this House and to Canada, that of building an increasingly vigorous economy and above all, a tolerant and caring society, a society where all Canadians will reap a progressively larger share of the benefits of this country's development. However, the dream of equitable distribution of wealth will never become a reality if we do not produce that wealth by involving all Canadians in the process, in other words, by meeting the challenge of providing employment.

[English]

The most consistent message of the Government has always been that a healthy economy creates employment. As a result of the economic course set by the Government, we have achieved truly remarkable results. According to the most recent economic survey carried out by the OECD, Canada has been remarkably successful in creating jobs. Employment growth last year was again the fastest in the whole OECD, being well over twice the OECD average. Just as important as the creation of jobs is the need to prepare Canadians for these jobs. I want to applaud vigorously the energy and commitment of my predecessor in forging a new approach to prepare Canadians for these emerging opportunities.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, what we inherited was of little value. All we had was a set of empty and ineffective policies which did no more than make Canadians ripe for unemployment insurance, which failed to hold out any hope for stability or economic improvement and what is worse, totally unrelated to the real needs of Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, we have made a concerted effort to restructure those policies, and we came up with the Canadian Job Strategy. Today, after only one year, 400,000 Canadians—Mr. Speaker, I repeat, for the information of my colleagues opposite—400,000 Canadians have been part of this remarkable success. Our approach is simple but fundamental, and it is to link training with the jobs and employment. All countries that have experienced significant development, whether in Asia, Europe or America, have understood this fact.

Here in Canada, the same holds true. That is why we have responded with six programs: Job Development, Job Entry, Skill Investment, and so forth. In fact, these programs link