

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis)—Consumer Affairs; the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)—Sports; the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell)—Fisheries.

Shall I call it six o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Six o'clock.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): It being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned till eight o'clock p.m.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

[Translation]

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. J. J. Blais for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and of the amendment thereto of Mr. Stanfield (page 52).

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, may I first congratulate you on being called upon for the third time to sit as Speaker of this House. You have been chosen unanimously by hon. members because your fairness of judgment and your competence qualify you to fill this position with dignity.

I should like also to congratulate the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) who has been appointed Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees of the Whole House.

It is the first time, Mr. Speaker, that I have the honour of sitting in this House. I am not familiar with the Standing Orders. I shall try, nevertheless, to learn the rules of procedure and should I ever depart from them, will you be kind enough to excuse me for it.

I also want to thank the people from the riding of Rimouski who showed me their confidence when they elected me member of the Canadian Parliament. The people of the riding of Rimouski include workmen, farmers, businessmen, industrialists, travellers and a lot of teachers. The city of Rimouski is in a way the academic capital of the Lower St. Lawrence since it holds many institutions of learning which are attended by eastern Quebec students.

The Address—Mr. Allard

In this riding, information is of very poor quality. For a few months I have been trying to determine needs and to find means to solve the many information problems from which my riding suffers.

Rimouski and its surroundings are not getting adequate television service, as I said earlier. It is appropriate to remind you, Sir, that there is but one T.V. station in Rimouski, namely station CJBR.

Mr. Speaker, we learned from newspaper reports that on a beautiful star-lit night on November 9, 1972, a satellite called Anik was launched 22,000 miles into space. As pre-arranged, Anik will keep a geostationary position, that is a fixed position over the Equator in relation to the earth's rotation. From this select spot, Anik will be able, 24 hours a day, to lend an eye and an ear to all of our land. For once, Canada has reached the top in the communication field. Anik will simultaneously rebroadcast ten colour television programs and will include over 9,000 telephone channels.

We from the Gaspé Peninsula were pleased to hear about that development in the scientific field, but unfortunately we were soon disillusioned, because Anik seems to have forgotten us. This deplorable condition of poor relatives has lasted too long and I would therefore ask the government to alter it as soon as possible.

If my memory is correct, during the summer of 1970 the present Minister of Communications (Mr. Pelletier), then Secretary of State and minister responsible for the CBC, had been quite sympathetic during a tour of the Gaspé Peninsula to the grievances of its inhabitants, finding first hand how deplorable was the condition of information in that area. Always conscious of our problems, the minister has apparently stated that Anik carried in its flanks the solution and would give birth to it in the fall of 1972.

Mr. Speaker, Anik is in orbit, but where are the projects aiming at properly serving Gaspésians?

We also know that everything is ready to serve our Eskimo citizens, in the course of February 1973. We know that the CBC has rented from Telesat the services of at least three television channels for \$9 million a year. We know that in three of four places, there will be some automatic relays connected with a transmitter for local broadcasting. Frobisher Bay and Resolute Bay will also be able to communicate both ways with the outside. I feel very happy for our northern citizens, but what about us from the Lower St. Lawrence?

Yes, and what about us? Mr. Speaker, what plans are being made to bring in the CBC in this part of Quebec, one of the major Canadian provinces in which information services should be available just as freely as anywhere else in the land? I did believe in the minister's sympathy, and I would like to continue to believe in it.

The people in the riding of Rimouski, who used to live almost exclusively from farming and lumbering, have, like everybody else, undergone many changes. Industries have settled there, and when economic conditions are normal and they operate to full capacity, they provide a living for part of the population. Farming operations in this riding used to be carried on a large scale but they also have declined, because they are no longer profitable.