

*The Address—Mr. Sevigny*

worked out by this Conservative government, that 400,000 Canadians obtained work since the scheme was started, without taking into account the 110,000 to which the hon. member for Essex East alluded to a moment ago. Mr. Speaker, when he makes his speeches during the forthcoming election campaign, I would suggest to the hon. member for Essex East and to those, who, like himself, state that nothing was done for the Canadian economy by the Conservative government, to speak to those who have found work thanks to the winter works program and ask them the following question: "What is your opinion of that program?" The answer will perhaps surprise him.

Mr. Speaker, let the hon. member for Essex East and his fellow members in the opposition and those of the New Democratic party go and ask the Canadian municipalities their views on the winter works program, thanks to which schemes that seemed impossible to carry out under the Liberal administration, have become a magnificent reality under Conservative rule. Let the hon. member and his colleagues consider the facts, and they will realize that, thanks to the winter works program, we have brought work to 500,000 homes and allowed Canadian municipalities to carry out long-awaited projects.

Mr. Speaker, I should like the hon. members opposite and especially my Liberal friends from Quebec sitting in the opposition, to tell me how it is that, if this winter works program is as harmful as the hon. member for Essex East would like us to believe, the first move of Mr. Lesage's government when it came to power on the provincial scene in Quebec was precisely to adopt this winter works program thought out from scratch and carried out by the government of the Prime Minister, while—

**Mr. Denis:** Adding 40 per cent to it, because it was not adequate.

**Mr. Sevigny:** When we came to power, Mr. Speaker, the economy of the country was in fact in a depressed condition, which condition had been caused by the bad management and the carelessness of those who preceded us here on the government benches.

Since we took over, we have repeatedly heard in this house the laments of the hon. members opposite. We have seen them rise one after another and doom our wonderful Cana-

dian nation to despair, dismay and almost hunger.

We have listened to them because it was our duty to do so, but while they were talking, we Conservatives were acting. In fact, as a result of the dynamic and energetic work done during these past four years, as is shown by the reports of economists, Canada has moved forward to new peaks. Under a Conservative administration and under the intelligent leadership of our leader, whom we respect and admire, we are bound to achieve the apotheosis of our great destiny.

Mr. Speaker, the Conservative government has worked as a team. We all have joined with our leader for whom we have respect, admiration and affection. True enough, we occasionally have different opinions, but we are interdependent and the decisions of the Conservative government are the result of common agreement.

And whatever our Liberal opponents and their supporters may think, the French-speaking ministers from the province of Quebec play as important a role as our English-speaking colleagues from Quebec and from the other provinces. We can express our views, and through the fair-mindedness that we all recognize in him, the Prime Minister willingly listens to us. In fact, whenever our representations are justified, we get results.

Mr. Speaker, some Liberal members take pleasure in repeating that the ministers from the province of Quebec are exceptionally weak and did not get anything for the province of Quebec since the Conservative party took over in June 1957.

To those who talk such language, whether they are actively engaged in politics as members of parliament or candidates; to those who are in the press gallery or elsewhere, and who work for our dailies or periodicals, I say this: facts are always more convincing than words.

Let us look at those facts briefly and reach the justified conclusion that the Conservatives from Quebec, the government members and members of the cabinet of the Prime Minister, have obtained more for Quebec in four years than the Liberals who preceded us during their 22 years in power.

Allow me to give you a brief outline of what has been achieved in the cultural field.