

The Address—Mr. Pelletier

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITION

MR. NYSTROM—TESTING OF CRUISE MISSILE—CALL FOR FREE VOTE

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition which was signed by 281 people from the federal riding of Yorkton-Melville. It concerns opposition to the testing of the Cruise missile. Perhaps it is appropriate that one should table this petition today after the excellent speeches we heard in the House this morning. Their concern arises out of the fact that we are doing this because we are meeting a request of the United States administration, not a request of NATO.

Wherefore the undersigned call upon the Government of Canada to permit a free vote in the House of Commons in order that Members of Parliament from all Parties may vote according to their beliefs on the Cruise missile testing issue and not in accordance with Party lines.

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[Translation]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Jack Burghardt for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, first I wish to congratulate my two colleagues who moved and seconded the motion on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. Mr. Speaker, I also wish to offer our new Governor General Designate, Mrs. Sauvé, my best wishes for a speedy recovery, as my hon. friend from Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) said today, and I hope we shall see her again very soon.

● (1520)

Mr. Speaker, during this short speech I would like to touch on four subjects, namely, cartography, the Canadian Industrial Renewal Board, a regional economic summit in the Eastern Townships and the creation of a Ministry of Youth.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement about cartography made by the Hon. Jean Chrétien, on January 30 this year was received with great satisfaction in Sherbrooke and the Eastern Townships, especially since the people of Sherbrooke and the Eastern Townships have been waiting seven years for this project to materialize. I shall not go into the details of the matter which caused me many sleepless nights and kept me very busy, but I would like to thank my colleagues from the Eastern Townships—the local ministers who supervised this project—and I

am referring to the Member for Drummond (Mr. Pinard) and the Secretary of State (Mr. Joyal), and especially the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, for their tireless dedication to this plan and for the understanding they showed for the wishes of the people of Sherbrooke and the Eastern Townships and the work they have done.

Mr. Speaker, although this announcement does not necessarily guarantee economic development over the next few decades, it will provide our region with an element that will be very important to its industrial restructuring. Cartography, as I imagine most people will know, is a high technology industry, and the Cartography Institute to be located in our area within the next few years will be one of the most advanced of its kind in the world. About 100 cartographers will relocate from the National Capital to the Eastern Townships, while more than 300 cartographers will be recruited in Sherbrooke which may provide some interesting openings for graduates of our local educational establishments. Investments of over \$75 million, the purchase of ultra modern equipment and an annual wage bill of more than \$15 million means that the Cartography Institute will become one of the major employers and industries in my riding.

In the months to come, we shall be informing people, through the various service clubs, about the Cartography Institute and what it will mean for Sherbrooke. An information centre will be opened shortly, and also a recruiting centre, where accommodation leased on a temporary basis will be available to train future cartographers. One of the most interesting aspects of the announcement made by Mr. Chrétien last week is the relationship that will be established between the new Institute and the University of Sherbrooke and Bishop's University, because of the proximity of these two institutions of higher learning. The new Cartography Institute will thus be able to establish useful contacts with various faculties, including the Faculty of Arts, through the Department of Geography, the Faculty of Applied Sciences and the Faculty of Natural Sciences. This co-operative relationship with our local institutions will benefit our universities, university students, professors, research scientists and future cartographers.

Mr. Speaker, this project has been the most important one I have worked for in the course of my political career. I am very pleased with the announcement and I appreciate the perseverance of the Government and the Ministers with whom I discussed the project, and the Government's firm resolve, from the outset, to pursue its excellent program for decentralizing federal services to the provinces. The transfer of cartography to Sherbrooke marks the end of the second and final phase of the Government's decentralization plan. Personally, I am convinced that I am echoing the wishes of the great majority of Sherbrooke and Eastern Townships residents when I say that the site of the future building of the mapping branch will be chosen at the earliest possible time and that construction of the new facilities will begin in the very near future.