

will urge our entrepreneurs to turn to active and readily accessible resources on which we can depend, particularly in our area. Our hydroelectric resources in northern Quebec are not remote and are very competitive. A rational use of the industrial waste from our forestry and fishing operations is quite possible. We have an abundance of those resources and the Canadian government is ready to support our efforts to use them.

We should always keep in mind that we are a young nation and that there is still much to be done. Those who succeed admit that it is mostly a matter of attitude. In the weeks and months to come the Government of Canada will specify the framework for the co-operation and true leadership it must demonstrate to give a new impetus to our economy. The government will give citizens better access to the services they need to accommodate their legitimate desire to contribute to social and economic development. Small and medium-sized businesses which are critical to our regional economy and to all of the province of Quebec, will benefit from better financial incentives.

● (1420)

The people of Rimouski and Témiscouata are happy to hear that the Canadian government is firmly committed to promote the development of port, air transport, rail and road facilities to increase interregional trade. The emphasis on electronic communications and the whole field of telecommunications will enable these devices to penetrate deeper into this country.

Farmers can also look forward to better financing conditions when applying for a loan. The food marketing policy for export markets is in keeping with a long-standing wish. Such measures adequately meet the needs of my constituency as a whole, because Rimouski-Témiscouata is first and foremost a rural constituency. Madam Speaker, the throne speech heralds the consistency and renewed emphasis which the government will place on the promotion of the economic and social status of women.

Madam Speaker, such fervour is not only a formal recognition of our presence in this House, but an acknowledgment of the change that is taking place in our modern society which at times was reluctant to grant us a full role. Is it through sheer force of numbers or the quality of our actions over the last few years, that our institutions have become more responsive to our presence, or is it the kind of reaction of which Quebec is now giving us an eloquent example which enables us today to oppose intransigence with a new spirit of oneness? The fact is that today we occupy a choice position in the major objectives of this Parliament, and the Canadian government is committed to assume effective and moral leadership in the development of such conditions which are required to protect the rights of more than half of this country's citizens.

Madam Speaker, the receptiveness of the government to the needs of handicapped citizens and its admitted will to extend

training and labour market integration programs move me deeply. What a great joy for me after more than ten years of hard work to promote this cause!

The government party is determined to promote a liberal society where the advantaged are encouraged through government intervention to share their economic and social wealth with those of us who are less fortunate or those of us who, after a lifetime of dedicated work have a right to see active generations contribute to recognize their efforts. So the announced measures to increase the guaranteed income supplement are amongst the most evident confirmations of the type of social goals the Government of Canada intends to pursue even though some people believe that, because of our general economic situation, we should without hesitation destroy the very foundations of our collective way of life. Housing conditions are encompassed in that liberal vision.

The Government of Canada will prefer to rationalize the control and management systems applied in some areas of government thereby restoring the conditions for a better administration. Let us simply say that for people in some areas like the one I represent, it is the beginning of an era where authorities could adjust to tangible dimensions and to the positive kind of regionalism which contributed so much to Canada's prosperity.

Madam Speaker, besides enthusiastically endorsing this new orientation and the sense once more asserted by the government of its responsibilities, it is still my firm intention to co-operate in preventing that this country of reason—which did not serve us that badly in the past after all—be divided by a phony gradualism such as the one proposed by the party in office in Quebec. Far from denying the fact that Canada is now facing a certain unrest with respect to its political structure and institutions, I think that the Canadian government, more particularly in the forthcoming weeks or months, will have to claim louder than ever before that we need "a totally fresh start" and that we must reformulate the consensus which presided over the federative union of the ten member-states which make up our country.

The establishment of two independent states north of the American superpower would yield catastrophic consequences for both founding peoples of our nation. I am even led to believe that the rifts within the French Canadian nation would likely be more serious. We should never forget that our permanent status as French Canadians in North America will be a constant reminder for us to be industrious. In this regard, it would seem more realistic for us to admit that the existence of a Canadian government may in the final analysis constitute a solid safeguard against the real threat against us which does not come from the east or the west and even less from the north, but rather from the south. And surprisingly so, the secession menace brings our fellow citizens in the other provinces to the same conclusion. So, Madam Speaker, we must