

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, November 13, 1984

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

[English]

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

#### RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed from Friday, November 9, consideration of the motion of Mr. Ken James for an Address to Her Excellency the Governor General in reply to her Speech at the opening of the session; and the amendment thereto of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra) (p. 38).

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard-Anjou):** Mr. Speaker, thank you for recognizing me on this occasion, my first address to the House of Commons. I would like to congratulate you on your election to a role in which you will surely excel. As one of the most junior Members, I would also like to extend my best wishes to the most senior Parliamentarian, the Hon. Stanley Knowles. Mr. Speaker, you will undoubtedly find him to be a great source of wisdom.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to address this august assembly, and I wish to thank the people of Saint-Léonard-Anjou for electing me as their Member and giving me the honour of representing them in this Chamber.

My riding, located on the eastern part of Montreal Island, consists of two towns, Saint-Léonard and Anjou, and part of the parish of Saint-René Goupil. Saint-Léonard has a population of over 70,000, of whom 40,000 are French speaking, 25,000 Italian speaking, 8,000 English speaking and 5,000 of other origins, including many Haitians. In Anjou, the vast majority of the population, 36,000, is French speaking, followed by 3,000 Anglophones and 1,500 residents of various origins. The riding also includes about 5,000 residents of Saint-René Goupil.

[English]

It is particularly exciting to represent such a diverse and truly multicultural riding. It is principally residential but it also contains the important industrial parks of Saint-Léonard and Anjou. Both of these industrial parks contain a broad sample of that most vital part of our economy, small business.

[Translation]

In 1963, our municipalities were small towns without any real economic infrastructure. In twenty-one years, thanks to Liberal legislation which promoted business development, we have been able to achieve a level of economic growth seldom equalled in Canada. By dint of hard work, diligence and

intelligent planning, our small and medium-sized businesses have made the riding of Saint-Léonard-Anjou a major commercial and industrial area.

[English]

While I am on the subject of Saint-Léonard-Anjou, which I am very proud to represent, let me say how honoured I am to succeed the Hon. Monique Bégin as its Member of Parliament. It is no small task to try to follow her example. She was such a bright and compassionate person, one who worked so hard to improve the lifestyle of disadvantaged Canadians.

[Translation]

An exceptional Member of Parliament, she remained close to the concerns of her fellow Canadians, while at the same time developing a vision of the realities of this country. She is one of those remarkable people who have had a profound influence on Canada, both through the legislation that was adopted by Parliament and her contribution to the social evolution of our country. Without her, this country would not have become what it is today: a modern and dynamic country, with a concern for social justice and able to provide health services that are the envy of the rest of the world.

[English]

I join with my constituents in thanking her for the 12 years she worked for the riding. I will try my hardest to maintain the standard of service which she set.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I pointed out earlier the major role played by small businesses in my riding. Thanks to these businesses and to the assistance provided by the previous Government, Canada has one of the highest job creation rates in the industrialized world. Our small businesses certainly deserve to be praised for their role in the present economic recovery.

[English]

Small businesses, from corner grocery stores to microchip manufacturers, from tailor shops to machine shops, can create more real jobs faster than any other sector of the economy. In light of this, I was pleased to hear on Monday that the Government intends to enhance risk taking and to reward entrepreneurs. That is good, but it would be better to know how it will be done.

[Translation]

Confidence is said to be a wonder drug. However, if the government wants to restore confidence, it ought to follow a realistic and constructive rather than an ambiguous approach. Canadians are impatiently waiting for specifics.