

The Address—Mr. Émard

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Mr. Speaker, as a token of appreciation of my English speaking colleagues on both sides of the house who have spoken French since the beginning of the twenty sixth parliament and of those who are spending time and effort to learn French in order to promote greater unity in Canada, I wish to continue my remarks in English.

As a group, farmers should find better methods of utilizing credits which are available to them. We must not forget that Canada is a country where farmers enjoy an excellent system of credit particularly in Quebec where, by agreement with the federal government, the province remits half of the interest on the loan. This results in loans at an effective rate of 2½ per cent.

We live in a world of specialization. Agriculture is the last refuge of the individualist but it will not be for long. Moreover, the farmer cannot hope to maintain a standard of living comparable to that of other segments of the economy using pre-war methods and techniques. It is, however, unfair that a farmer who has invested a capital of \$20,000 to \$25,000 and who applies himself with diligence should not have the opportunity to realize profits equal to those of investors in commerce and industry.

In the field of agriculture, as in so many other fields of activity, co-operative federalism offers the greatest opportunities for improvement. ARDA, for instance, will only work effectively with a high degree of collaboration between the provinces and Ottawa. I believe that to work most effectively in this field the province of Quebec should appoint a liaison agency to work with the department of agriculture of the provinces and the federal department of rural development.

It is with the co-operation of all levels of government together with the organizations of professional farm groups and vocational guidance in the agricultural industry that farmers will be able to solve their current difficulties and realize a standard of living in keeping with human dignity and the risks and sacrifices they are so willing to make. Professional farm organizations in all cases are excellent at the higher echelons. However, this is not enough and it is imperative that this organization extend to all levels.

The state must, above all, ensure co-ordination, direction, and planning so that the government may get the best results from its legislation. Otherwise, there is the chance that the outcome will be disappointing, as has happened so often in the past. I have been told that in a period of 20 years the federal and provincial governments have spent an

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amount of \$50,000 per farm family in a certain isolated region without improving their situation.

Only a mature plan can lead to solid results. I am optimistic now, Mr. Speaker, and confident that our farmers will understand the necessity of co-operation, of group organization, of modern methods of production, because I have faith in the agricultural policy promoted by the present government.

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like first of all to associate myself with those who have congratulated the hon. member for Longueuil (Mr. Cote) for the manner in which he moved the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

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At the same time I should like to extend congratulations to the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. Basford) on the honour paid to him and to his constituents on being chosen to second the address in reply. It is always an honour for members, particularly for newer members, to have the opportunity of expressing first of all their comments on the speech from the throne. However, having made these congratulatory remarks to the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard, let me say I was somewhat disappointed at some of the allusions he made in the course of his speech. I thought, in particular, he was less than fair when, in the course of some comments on the Canada pension plan and the controversy it had aroused in this country, he said, in passing, that he was critical about election to some provincial parliaments being dependent on large campaign contributions. If the hon. member had the courage of his convictions or had something to back up his remarks—which I think were in very poor taste and constituted almost a smear—he would have said to what provincial governments he was referring, to what members and by whom these campaign contributions were made. These sort of, I would not call them offhand but really off colour, references are no contribution to debate in this house.

We have noted, since the resumption of this session of parliament, the changeover in the cabinet. Some of these changes were undoubtedly expected, and may we hope they will be of benefit to the country and will result in the smoother administration of government affairs. There is only one appointment on which I should like to comment briefly. I refer to the new Minister of Forestry, the hon. member for Iles-de-la-Madeleine (Mr. Sauve), with whom I had the privilege of working rather closely during