

*The Address—Mrs. Côté***SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MRS. ÉVA CÔTÉ AND SECONDED
BY MR. DOUG FRITH

The House proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General.

Mrs. Eva Côté (Rimouski): Madam Speaker, in my opening remarks, may I extend my respects to His Excellency the Governor General and his wife who are both vivid symbols of the vitality of this nation. My profound admiration also goes to our new Speaker and it is a feeling I cannot keep for myself especially in the present circumstances. Surely, when it comes to the rights of remote areas and their inhabitants, eastern Quebec's communities will find themselves well represented here in the person of this tireless defender of our ideals of justice, in this bulwark of awareness. In addressing myself to you, Madam Speaker, I most particularly wish to convey to you my gratefulness for your attitude which, if I may say to our colleagues, is perhaps not unrelated to my presence in this House.

By granting the privilege of moving the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne to the member for Rimouski-Témiscouata, the Prime Minister and his cabinet colleagues inspire me with a great deal of respect for this gesture on their part and this demonstration of their obvious interest for the citizens of Rimouski and Témiscouata who have displayed their unswerving trust in me during the last federal election.

I also want to salute my many colleagues who, both during the election campaign and since my coming to Parliament, have, in a spirit of true generosity tried to understand the precise meaning of the repeated, sometimes noisy and certainly continuous interventions voiced for too many years by the representatives of the regional capital of the lower St. Lawrence. The Rimouski-Témiscouata constituency is bordered on the north by the St. Lawrence. Its neighbour to the west is Kamouraska-Rivière-du-Loup and to the east, Matapédia-Matane. It shares its southern border with New Brunswick and Maine. It encompasses and exemplifies the ways and characteristics of those regions whose people are filled with a necessary spirit of vitality and a form of assertive pride which we will more simply call dignity. The temperament of these people is a product of historical, geographic and sometimes political circumstances. Believe me, it took much determination on their part to reconcile their patriotic love of that beautiful part of the country and their reason for living with all the means suggested, often thoughtlessly, by those in power.

It took much courage on their part to ensure their chances of prosperity. They had to think of ways and means of their own and like them. They had to make do, so to speak. Those men and women had to demonstrate a good deal of dignity to set up an imposing number of regional or sectorial groups to consider and make feasible the most realistic ways of develop-

ing the available resources, be they physical, technical or human. There are countless examples of experiments which have been reproduced in other Quebec regions and even the rest of Canada. Let us mention only the Eastern Quebec Development Board, the Regional Development Council, the many co-operatives and resource development corporations and other such organizations all trying to satisfy the urgent need for an efficient and useful participation by all their members.

● (1410)

More particularly, let us recall the studies conducted by the Eastern Quebec Planning Bureau previous to the signature in Rimouski, in 1968, by both the Quebec and the Canadian governments, represented at the time by the late Premier Daniel Johnson and the present Prime Minister of Canada, of agreements for the regionalization of budgetary envelopes totalling \$411 million to develop and consolidate regional infrastructures. Therefore, the will to innovate of our fellow citizens from Rimouski and Témiscouata is beyond question. However, our region and eastern Quebec as a whole have yet to achieve prosperity. Of course, local interests have made several proposals for the maximum use of our resources and have checked them against our individual and collective requirements. Yet, an inventory of our available resources leads us to believe that the funds allotted not only to the Rimouski constituency, but also to the vast area comprising the lower St. Lawrence and the Gaspé peninsula will necessarily be increased.

Let no one believe, however, that I underestimate the legitimate needs of our fellow Quebecers across on the North Shore, in the constituencies of Charlevoix and Manicouagan. In our region, the development of one shore has traditionally been linked to the development of the other. In other words, Madam Speaker, I call on the members for these areas to show the same solidarity and team spirit as their constituents. Their example has been far-reaching and the consultations already started should prompt us to sustain our efforts. Aware of our commitment, the Prime Minister has already met us half way by proposing two economically oriented departments in our area, namely, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the Ministry for Small Businesses. Can this be a sign of the times? It might be seen as the recognition of the fine work done by past and present generations, and perhaps even of their wise choice of a representative to the Canadian Parliament.

It also shows an awareness of the tremendous economic heritage that constitute the natural resources of our area—the lumber, mining, fishing, farming industries and so on. It is a reasonable admission of the new trends in the management of our economy highlighted in the Speech from the Throne. In the government's statement on the various elements of the industrial policy and the supporting energy policy, the measures to promote the development of alternative energy sources