

The Address—Mr. Mazankowski

ships and the highest tonnage ever imported by Canada in a single year. The new shipbuilding government policy came into force last June 30, but there are still some loopholes—PIP grants, among others—which nullify the positive aspects of that policy.

The Government must earmark PIP grants exclusively for companies which buy their equipment in Canada or which maximize Canadian contents. That suggestion does not fly in the face of existing international trade agreements which we have signed since GATT Section 19 does authorize lifting special import barriers when a national industry is threatened.

Canada's shipbuilding industry is seriously threatened. Should we fail to make changes to boost that sector in Canada, then the very survival of our shipbuilding industry will be at stake.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude on that subject by saying that all my efforts will be directed towards the preparation of an effective merchant marine policy which will spell prosperity for our shipyards.

In another vein, I would be remiss if I failed to talk about those who have been most severely affected by twenty years of inertia—young Canadians. Twenty years during which the best the previous government could come up with to solve the unemployment problem was to make them even more dependent on a paternalistic and patronizing government which would force them to wait for handouts from their Liberal MP. Once they realized they had failed miserably, some former Liberal Ministers had the nerve to claim that they had been unable to correct the situation because of the lagging economy for which they were responsible in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I am glad to belong to a government which has decided to create permanent jobs for young Canadians. It is now up to us to take action.

The constituents of Richelieu are also looking forward to a new federal-provincial agreement concerning the creation of industrial parks in the regions of Bécancour, Nicolet and Sorel-Tracy.

In the agricultural sector, our producers are delighted to hear about the reform advocated in the Speech from the Throne, especially with respect to the legislative provisions designed to ease the transfer of family farms and others concerning the tax rebate on gasoline.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak in this House and, in conclusion, I want to say again that, for me, it is a great honour to belong to this Government and, for the people of Richelieu, there is renewed hope to see workers walking proudly again, businessmen looking forward to the future, young people regaining their dignity, and the elderly knowing that they are secure.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Questions or comments. Debate. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski).

• (1510)

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I want to say what an honour it is for me to participate in this debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne and to associate myself with the many others who have expressed sincere congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to a very high office, one which I know you will fulfil with all the distinction and honour that is customary to this ennobled position.

I also congratulate the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees, the Hon. Member for Verchères (Mr. Danis); the Deputy Chairman of Committees, my good friend and colleague, the Hon. Member for Edmonton Centre (Mr. Paproski); as well as the Assistant Deputy Chairman of Committees, the Hon. Member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Charest).

Above all, I congratulate the mover and the seconder for their very distinct contribution in moving and seconding the Speech from the Throne. They certainly have distinguished themselves in an exemplary manner. They have not only brought pride to themselves, but indeed they have brought pride to their constituencies, to those who elected them, and they have certainly brought honour to their regions and districts. I must say it is very refreshing, after having been in this place for more than 16 years, to hear the eloquent words of the mover and seconder and the eloquent words of those who have spoken in this debate.

I enjoyed with interest the person who spoke earlier about his conviction regarding the need for adequate policies to foster the gradual development of a merchant marine and the need to create an economy which would establish permanent job opportunities. It is encouraging to note that throughout this whole country we have people speaking in the Chamber who are echoing the same sentiments. The conviction and the clarity with which these new Members have spoken is indeed an inspiration to us all. They clearly have a lot to offer. I know that this will be one of the most productive Parliaments in the history of this country.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the electors of Vegreville who have placed their confidence in me for the sixth consecutive time. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the constituency of Vegreville. For those who may not be aware of where the constituency of Vegreville is, it is east of the City of Edmonton. The western boundary is within 20 miles of the City of Edmonton and the eastern boundary is the boundary of Saskatchewan and Alberta. I have the City of Lloydminster, which is shared with my colleague and good friend, the Hon. Member for Kindersley-Lloydminster (Mr. McKnight), who looks after the Saskatchewan side of Lloydminster. I try to look after the Alberta side.

Then there are some very important communities such as St. Paul, Wainwright, Vegreville, Vermilion and Elk Island Park. There is an army base at Wainwright. It is a very mixed economy, primarily agriculture and small industry. The energy