

Certainly I will not forget our hog, poultry or grain producers who also at times are at odds with a finicky government. All these people getting their living from the farm are entitled to the decent income and the job security the Government can provide them through just and fair legislation.

Several other types of producers and breeders may also be found in my riding, Mr. Speaker, and in Saint-Apollinaire we have one of the very few rabbit abattoirs in Canada. This goes to show that people in my area are not afraid of going off the beaten track in order to break new ground and show their vitality in that area so vital for our economy. Whether it has to deal with a dairy producer in Warwick or a grain grower in Saint-Edouard-de-Lotbinière, our government will make it its duty to be equal to his expectations. The Speech from the Throne indicates very well the spirit in which we will work in the future with local operators.

Mr. Speaker, in my riding we also have a very large number of small and medium-sized businesses. Incidentally, one of our communities, Daveluyville, has the largest number of industries per thousand inhabitants in Canada. But those industries, once thriving, have been hit hard by recession. The preceding government's policies have also contributed to their downturn. The employment crisis in the Bois-Franc area, in the very heart of the riding of Lotbinière, is almost tragic.

The clothing, wool and textile industry which used to be the pride of Victoriaville, same sort of a regional metropolis of the Bois-Francs, is near bankruptcy. Just two years ago, that industry still employed over 4,500 people whereas today it barely survives with only about 1,000 jobs. The largest clothing manufacturers in the area were forced to close down.

As well, Victoriaville used to boast about being the capital of the furniture industry which has now almost disappeared from the area taking away the means of living of a specialized manpower.

Such disrupting facts about the economy of my region have been brought to light during various economic conferences held in the Mauricie-Bois-Francs area. We now have a chronic rate of unemployment which, for the past two years, has been twice as high as the average rate in Canada. All those who took part in the economic summits held in our area have been unable to find a sound solution to our problems.

Voters in our region seem to have found the answer, Mr. Speaker, in the trust they placed in the Members of the Government, which public opinion has already described as the Government of national renewal. The hopes of small businessmen are now raised because obviously the policies of the Progressive Conservative Government will favour the private sector, which is the motor of a healthy and dynamic economy. Our regional economy, which was based almost exclusively on soft sectors such as wood and clothing, certainly needs clear and specific policies. It also needs a general sense of vigour which will make it easier for consumers to purchase Canadian products of excellent quality.

### *The Address—Mr. M. Tremblay*

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Victoriaville area is the industrial core of my constituency. During the last few years, many industries have had to close down and to lay off hundreds of able and hard-working employees.

To solve this problem, the former Government chose to create temporary jobs leading nowhere. But, my fellow citizens are proud people, and like all Canadians, they want lasting jobs; they want to support themselves and their families with dignity without fear of going on unemployment insurance every three months. These are probably the reasons why so many community agencies were created; in other words, people have organized effectively.

The expectations of the Lotbinière voters will not be left unfulfilled by this Government or by their Member of Parliament.

• (1710)

[*English*]

Along with the sad regional economic situation, there is anxiety on the part of the farming class in Quebec. The milking industry and maple plantations constitute the basis of that farming industry. Regretfully I must remind the House that there is a problem in this area in that producers are complaining about cost increases.

[*Translation*]

I should mention as well, Mr. Speaker, the role of the State in the generous distribution of its wealth through so-called job creating grants.

In this regard, I wish first to refer to a view expressed in a report published in *La Presse* on November 6, 1982, about the role of the Welfare State. One can read in this report those very wise comments, and I quote:

The State has grown out of proportions. It has overwhelmed in too many areas personal initiative and hence created an excessive dependency, thereby undermining all inventiveness, mutual help, family and community solidarity, etc. Group, class and regional interests have replaced sharing and mutual aid.

Community organizations and intermediary bodies have a particularly meaningful role to play in restabilizing our society.

During these times of economic and social crisis, we must support any local initiative intended to help people in need and to strengthen the life lines of the community.

Mr. Speaker, these are basic principles that we will put into practice when allocating the available funds of the State, which must cease to be viewed as the welfare State. Those who control the distribution of these funds or programs must not be guided by political capital considerations. The general interest must prevail at the time of the allocation over the particular interests of any individual or political group.

I will now say, Mr. Speaker, a few words on the federal-provincial constitutional relations as they stand in my province and in my riding. It is no secret that there is constitutional disagreement between the different levels of government in our country. It is inconceivable to think that Quebec is still not