

*The Address—Mr. J. P. Cote*

Mr. Speaker, I would of course like to seize the opportunity to express before my fellow members some of my main ideas for a better Canada, strong in its unity and great through the respect of the constitutional rights guaranteed to each part of our great confederation.

Mr. Speaker, may I first, on behalf of all hon. members, extend the warmest welcome in this house to the new members for the two Montreal ridings of Laurier and St. Denis. We congratulate the elected members, wishing them every success, and we are sure that they will work without prejudices for the greater welfare of every Canadian.

They follow two men who played an important part in the political development of our country. Their departure leaves a great void in this house. Every one of us will regret the jolly and witty remarks of the former postmaster general who succeeded in giving a new impulse to a department sometimes too little appreciated.

We shall regret also the oratorical talent of the former minister of justice. The talent he had to confound the opposition with such easiness made him a valuable asset to the administration. His experience and his sound judgment were of invaluable assistance to the Prime Minister whose right hand man he actually was.

Both had countless friends, however, because their knowledge of Canadian politics and their broadmindedness in connection with the problems of this country commanded respect and invited friendship. I am sure to be the spokesman of everyone in wishing the new high commissioner for Canada in London and the new senator great success in their important functions.

Mr. Speaker, may I express the same good wishes regarding the two hon. members promoted to the cabinet and to previous ministers entrusted with a different department.

Mr. Speaker, the county of Longueuil lies between two points where, in 1963, were launched two projects which, when completed, can only have the most beneficial effects. Both are of capital importance for the county and for Canada.

I am referring of course to the 1967 world fair to be held on a site which is largely in the riding of Longueuil and, second, to the transfer from the Department of National Defence to the Department of Transport of the air base at St. Hubert, in the neighbouring constituency of Chambly-Rouville.

I should like to say that I was very pleased by the interest shown in the world fair by many members from the other provinces. A large number of them visited the site last summer. I hope the initiative taken by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Deschatelets) will be taken again this year so that everyone

may see what progress has been made. I should like to invite in particular the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) to come and meet the mayor of Montreal. He would thus find out that the latter is very open-minded and has no racial prejudices. I have known him personally for some 20 years and I am proud to say that he is a very honest and hard working man served by an intelligence of first calibre.

A great lawyer and a fine administrator, Mr. Jean Drapeau has truly been the champion of the world fair and we owe him a great deal for the holding of that event in Canada in 1967.

One would have to be of bad faith to deny that such a manifestation of human solidarity and culture, accompanied by exhibits of the fantastic inventions of the human mind, will bring about a great economic development not only for Montreal or the south shore but for the whole of Canada. That is why I associate myself with all those who have expressed their faith in the future and asked the Canadian people to work together for the success of the world fair which will be inaugurated the very year that Canada will celebrate its centennial. The exhibition should reflect the whole nation. Our share should be national in character, as the fair will be international and is meant to convey the idea to its visitors of Canada's greatness—a greatness which should not be just literature, but an expression of the very soul of Canada.

The transfer of the St. Hubert airport from the Department of National Defence to the Department of Transport, its transformation from a military airfield into a civilian terminal, is another development which will greatly promote commercial and industrial expansion of the south shore of the St. Lawrence river and of the metropolis.

That airport is nearer to the centre of Montreal than the present international airport at Dorval, and will be even closer after completion of the new road system which is now being built. Easy access to Montreal from the south shore by numerous bridges is an important factor in the proposed development.

It is therefore important that the Department of Transport should, as soon as possible, change the St. Hubert airport into a civilian and a commercial airport. It will, indeed, become an essential factor in solving all the problems to be expected with the flow of tourists to the 1967 exhibition.

Mr. Speaker, it would be appropriate at this time to recall some of the many bills which were adopted during the last session by this parliament to restore, without undue