

Job Creation

would give the people a sense that the government understood what it was doing, that it understood the problems of the people and that it had a plan of action.

I admit this is not the most sophisticated plan of action. It does not get into all of those newfangled terms everybody uses when they think about industrial strategy. What this plan involves is simply the utilizing of the power of the government to mobilize the unemployed, the capital of this country and all of the industrial capacity that is sitting idle, in order to create what is desperately needed, employment on the one hand and housing on the other, with all of the related benefits that would flow from it. It is the simplest approach. But, you know, there is something about it—it works, strange though it may seem. I realize there are those in this House who might wonder about this, but it works.

If you engage in that kind of job creation, the two things I have mentioned—the undertaking in the public sector of moving ahead with projects that are going to go ahead anyway, doing them now rather than later, and meeting just the immediate demand for accommodation—the effect will be sufficient to turn around the economic malaise that exists from coast to coast, with two or three exceptions.

I make a plea to the government. To berate the government makes no sense. I have tried and it does not work. I have tried to appeal to you. I have tried to appeal to your conscience and decency.

● (1540)

An hon. Member: They have none.

Mr. Deans: I have tried to appeal to your understanding of the—

Mr. Lalonde: Have some respect for the Chair.

Mr. Deans:—feeling that people have for the problems that confront them and their families. I hear the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) babbling on again.

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to remind the hon. member he should not berate the Chair as he does.

An hon. Member: Sit down.

Mr. Lalonde: He is referring to the lack of understanding of the Chair and—

An hon. Member: Sit down and be quiet.

Mr. Lalonde: He has been in this House long enough to know the rules of the House as far as respect for the Chair is concerned.

Mr. Deans: That will certainly set the minds of those people who are in to see me at ease. I know they will be very impressed by that interjection.

An hon. Member: That was his best one this year.

Mr. Deans: What I am trying to say, Mr. Speaker, through you, even to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, as hard hearted as he may be, is that there is no excuse for what he is doing to the people of this country. There is no excuse. There can be none given and none accepted.

The budget which came in on Thursday last is a national disgrace.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: It is a fraud. It should have and could have recognized the problems of this country and dealt with them in a way which would have been of benefit in both the long term and the short term. But it has failed.

This is the same government, you may recall, Mr. Speaker, which was berating the Tories when they were in power for not coming to grips with high interest rates, high unemployment levels or high energy prices. This is the same government that seems to have gone completely off track.

An hon. Member: You are sorry you supported them.

Mr. Deans: I have never supported them in my life. The problem is so serious that the difficulty now is that it cannot be left any longer. There has to be a solution to these problems and the solution does not have to be so complex as to be incomprehensible. It can be a solution similar to what I have suggested today.

Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the New Democratic Party has brought this motion forward because it gives us an opportunity to make a few remarks which we might not have been able to do in time for introduction through the budget debate. I commend the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) for moving this motion.

It is not just the New Democratic Party which is concerned about the rank and file of Canada. I may disagree strongly with their approach, but I believe the aims and goals of our parties are the same. I think what we are looking for, as the budget, the Speech from the Throne and the 1971 budget said, is a fair shake, a fair share and more equity in the system. I think we agree in that area. Our disagreement is in how we arrive at that situation. There is a fundamental difference in political and philosophical views.

Turning to this motion, the papers are full of reports, which are increasing by the hour, of tragic situations in terms of payrolls and take home pay. Manufacturing plants are laying off people because the economic environment in Canada is so unstable that the normal economic forces are not working. I am in agreement with those members in the New Democratic Party who are genuinely concerned about the inability of the business cycle to break the boom-bust syndrome. I think that members in my own party have perhaps not spent enough money in research and effort to try to break that cycle. I think that inability, by those of us who support capitalist market system, to break that syndrome is what gives great fodder and opportunity to the socialist movement to come upon us.