

No one person or group of persons has all the answers and we do not claim to. However, this government is prepared to work with business, labour and individuals to provide real job creation opportunities.

With goodwill and a sense of determination from all parties we will recover from the recession and provide lasting employment to Canadians in all regions including Newfoundland, including St. John's West.

[Translation]

**Mr. René Canuel (Matapédia—Matane):** Madam Speaker, I listened with great interest to the hon. member. I am from Quebec and she is from another province. Being the Official Opposition critic for natural resources, I get phone calls from the Maritimes, especially from New Brunswick. People in forestry, in farming say: "You must help us".

If the Liberal Party agenda was that good, I would probably get a lot less phone calls. These people tell me and I quote: "They cut back in social services, in programs, cut back in unemployment insurance, cut back in health care and especially in forestry and farming". Very few things for small business.

Of course, what the hon. member is saying repeatedly, and rightly so, is that there is nevertheless an effort made with regard to the infrastructure and that must be recognized, and I do. But we are saying and I cannot repeat it 20 times: this spring, this summer or this fall, that program will work and I thank the government for it, but after that, what will the future hold for federal youth programs? What will the future hold for small business? What will the future hold for farmers and people in forestry? I put the question to the hon. member and I would like her to answer me. What will the future hold for all these people?

[English]

**Mrs. Payne:** Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. I am not sure if the hon. member is aware of the fact that I am from Newfoundland and not from New Brunswick. As the hon. member realizes, in Newfoundland we have more of a fisheries crisis than we do of anything else.

The problems that the hon. member spoke about in forestry and in farming certainly to a lesser degree are experienced in Newfoundland.

I want to say again to the hon. member that the infrastructure program that was announced by this government was very welcome in my riding. As I said in my remarks earlier we in St. John's West cannot wait for that program to come into place. In my riding we have a very high unemployment rate because of the fisheries crisis and for other reasons.

We certainly look forward to these programs being put into place in order to create even the short term employment which at

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this point in time will be very welcome. However, this program was not meant to create short term employment solely. It is also a means to kick-start the economy so that other businesses will in turn create long term jobs.

[Translation]

**Mr. Benoît Sauvageau (Terrebonne):** Madam Speaker, I would like to start by quoting from the speech of my colleague. She said: "Government cannot do it all when it comes to job creation". This is very nicely put, and we agree with that. However, we feel that the government should not be doing nothing, which is precisely what it is doing right now.

The reliance on an infrastructure program takes us back to the Trudeau era, and maybe even earlier than that. This recipe for restructuring the economy dates back to the 1930s, at the time of the great depression, when an infrastructure program was put in place. I believe that times have changed. The economy has also changed and I just hope that the Liberals have kept pace with those changes.

• (1630)

The way this infrastructure program will work is dreadful, and I will give you an example. I do not know whether the people in my riding have come to the same conclusion, but here it is. In a small town of my riding, Repentigny, the council had to borrow \$6 million in order to get its share of money from the infrastructure program. After it has borrowed the \$6 million—and I am not talking about Montreal here, I am talking about a town of 50,000 inhabitants—the town will receive the same amount from the federal government. How much is this going to cost in interest payments? How much more taxes will the residents have to pay? And how long will the program last?

I regret, Madam Speaker, but I must say that it is disgrace for the government to come up with such a program, claiming it is going to create jobs, and nothing else.

[English]

**Mrs. Payne:** Madam Speaker, I am not sure that the hon. member asked a question. I think it was more a comment than a question. However, I do understand the hon. member's problem there. I suspect that there probably are some communities that will not be able to take advantage of this infrastructure program.

However, I have talked to all of the municipal people from every community in my riding over the past couple of weeks. We have worked out a plan whereby almost every community will be able to take advantage.

I do not say that there are not some exceptions. There certainly are. However, I believe that with some ingenuity and some imagination almost every community in my riding will be able to take advantage of this program in one way or another.