

Supply

of that Party are saying to the people of Canada. If you want to know what our policies are, he says, you have to elect us first. I say to him—dream on.

I ask the hon. gentleman from Skeena not to be too hard on the gentleman from Prince George-Peace River because if we keep him on his feet long enough he will tell us other secrets about where the Tories do not stand on various issues.

The Tories are pretty steamed up these days about the Government's job-creation programs. I wonder why that is? They say that they did not have any input in some of the projects. What is wrong with that? Why should they have any say in the implementation of those projects? The people of Canada, four years ago in their wisdom, elected a Liberal Government. When will the Tories get it through their heads that they are not the Government? Of course, as Members of Parliament they can and must have their say in the House about public expenditures and programs, but they have absolutely no right to have any say in the implementation of those programs.

If the Tories want to have a say, they can do one of two things: they can get themselves elected as a government, or they can cross the floor and support the Government. Those are the only two ways they are going to have any say in the implementation of government programs. That is the way the democratic system works.

Mr. Dick: It is the way the porkbarrel system works.

Mr. Simmons: Do I have more to say in job creation programs than Tory MPs, Mr. Speaker? You bet your life I do; you had better believe it. I would be out of my skull to support a government that would not allow me to have any more say than if I were in the Opposition. Of course I have a say. Anyone who would suggest otherwise is misled, naive or both. Why, then, is there all this fuss about the Government's job creation program and the initiative we have been taking to create jobs across the country? Why all this contrived concern, this organized anger, this fake frothing of the mouth by the Tories? To find the answer to that question, Mr. Speaker, we must go back to 1979, to the days of the mercifully short-lived Tory Government. That Government wiped out job-creation programs which had been begun by the former Liberal Government. That is where that Party stands on job creation. It wiped out every fisheries project in Atlantic Canada with the Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) as the Minister of Fisheries. I hear the Tories saying that is not true. They want to rewrite history on this one, like the gentleman from Prince George-Peace River has been taught to rewrite history on Schefferville. However, no one who lived in Schefferville will believe it. No one who lives in Labrador West believes his line. No one who lives in Newfoundland believes his line.

• (1650)

As I travel around Newfoundland, the political question I am asked most often by the average person who does not follow politics too closely is: The fellow who is the Leader of

the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney), is he the same fellow who was the President of the Iron Ore Company of Canada? They ask me if that is the fellow who was involved in Schefferville. So I say to the gentleman from Prince George-Peace River that he would be politically smart to stay a thousand miles from that subject because there is no defence at all for what was done there, and the only excuse is that the Hon. Member for Central Nova (Mr. Mulroney), as he now is, was then taking his instructions from Cleveland.

Mr. Ellis: What kind of bafflegab is that?

Mr. Simmons: The Hon. Member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Ellis) may not understand. That is understandable. If the Hon. Member for Central Nova had at heart the interests of the people of Schefferville that day, he would not have been so quick to kowtow to the multinational interests in Cleveland. That is what it means.

Mr. Ellis: Nonsense.

Mr. Simmons: There they go again, Mr. Speaker. That Party wants to rewrite some more history. These job-creation programs are meeting very real economic and social needs in this country.

Mr. Oberle: Dig a hole and fill it back in.

Mr. Simmons: These job-creation programs are providing jobs. They are improving facilities in communities across this country. The Hon. Member for Prince George-Peace River talks about digging holes and filling them back in. That shows just how much he knows about what these programs are doing across the country. Is a meat cutting facility in Robinson's, Newfoundland, digging a hole and filling it in again? No, it is a way of helping some farmers get their produce to market. Is the Hon. Member against that? What about a retaining wall at Crabbe's River in Newfoundland to assist some fishermen? How about a flood control structure in Rushoon, Newfoundland, to protect the property of the local residents? How about a fire hall at Morrisville, an improved water system at Red Harbour, a community centre at St. Theresa's, improvements to a hockey arena at Port aux Basques?

Mr. Oberle: Now we are getting to lists.

Mr. Simmons: That is hardly digging holes and filling them in again. That is addressing some very real concerns in communities across this country. Is it sinister, Mr. Speaker, is it sleazy, to help people across this land to protect their homes from flooding, to help farmers prepare their produce for market, to give fishermen's boats some protection against the sea? That is what the job-creation money, in which I have had a say, is going to do. The Tories call that sleazy, sinister, porkbarrelling. I say, Mr. Speaker, it is a very sensible use of public money. In the process we provide some job opportunities to people who have had a very rough year or so, especially in Newfoundland. The deep sea fishery has all but collapsed. The inshore fishery has had a most disastrous year.

Mr. Oberle: Whose fault is that?