

Supply

The people of British Columbia know that that promise has not been kept as far as they are concerned.

If 200,000 jobs were created across Canada, the people of British Columbia should have got 20,000 of them. Instead of 20,000 more jobs, British Columbia now has 23,000 fewer jobs than it had in September of 1984. It lost an additional 1,000 jobs last month. In September, 1984 there were 1,226,000 people employed in British Columbia. By April of 1985 that number had shrunk by 23,000 to 1,203,000. In September the unemployment rate was 14.1 per cent. In April it was 15.4 per cent. That is a 1.3 per cent increase. A recent study in my riding concluded that the real unemployment rate is 26 per cent. If British Columbia had taken the kind of initiatives taken by the Manitoba Government, and if our unemployment rate were at the same level as that in Manitoba, we would have 90,000 more jobs than we now have.

Statistics cannot begin to tell the real story of the poverty and misery which has been caused by this massive unemployment. We recognize that unemployment in British Columbia did not begin on September 4, 1984 when the present Government came into power. It is rooted in Social Credit policies which date back to the 1950s and 1960s and the sell-out program which was practised by the late W.A.C. Bennett, the father of the present Premier. At that time, our resources were alienated to large multi-national corporations which were interested in maximizing their profits. The people lost control over the planning and intelligent use of those resources. These policies were added to by the cut-back Budget introduced by the present Premier in 1983. All of this is compounded by the indifference of the Liberal Government over the many years that it was in power. The Liberals have now paid for their indifference, but the people of British Columbia continue to pay for that indifference and for the Social Credit and Conservative mismanagement of our economy.

In the last election, the present Government capitalized on the Liberal indifference. It made a number of promises, including one of a whole new era of co-operation with the provinces. To date, promised federal-provincial co-operation with the Social Credit Government has not led to any benefits for the people of British Columbia. The outstanding issue has been the failure to make a funding commitment for the ERDA agreement. The Government of British Columbia has knuckled under to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and agreed to a less than adequate sum for the ERDA agreement.

Where was the stumbling block between the federal and the provincial Governments? It certainly was not ideological. The federal Government and the British Columbia provincial Government are soul mates with regard to ideology. When the Social Credit Government introduced its cut-back Budget in 1983, the then leader of the Opposition said that it was a step in the right direction even though he would have done things slightly differently.

We have now seen the document of the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen) relating to cut-backs in the native policy area. We see that the difference between the federal Government and the Government of British Columbia is one of

style. It has nothing whatsoever to do with substance. The difference is that Bill Bennett's cut-back program of 1983 came with one great blow when he tabled 26 cut-back Bills on the same day as he introduced his Budget. The task force of the Deputy Prime Minister acts with slick media strategy, which includes news leaks, denials, and announcements of cut-backs on big news days of which little notice is given. However, the substance of the task force memorandum to Cabinet could have been written by any of the Sacred Cabinet Ministers in British Columbia. I remind the people of Canada that there are five more cut-back strategy papers to come.

Let us look at some of the specific Tory promises. Shipbuilding is an important industry in the Victoria and greater Vancouver areas. The Tories promised \$75 million in assistance to the shipbuilding industry. We see in this year's Estimates that \$10 million has been cut from the shipbuilding assistance program. Last spring, when the present Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Fraser) was the official critic in that area, he promised immediate movement to the second phase of the Salmonid Enhancement Program. He stressed the urgency of getting involved in its second phase. One can see from the Estimates that we are stuck in the transitional phase. There is no real commitment to salmonid enhancement beyond what took place under the previous Government.

• (1700)

The Prime Minister signed the salmon treaty with the United States. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans encouraged him to do so, and now he is travelling in the United States and Europe while the fishery in British Columbia is in a shambles.

It is interesting to hear my colleague, the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly), talk about the very serious situation facing the gulf trollers while the Minister is travelling in Europe. Those fishermen have not had any indication of when they can start fishing. Therefore, they have been involved in a deliberate breach of the law in order to protest their situation.

The sports fishery is still facing a great deal of uncertainty about its future. While there is an allocation of some 270,000 Chinook, it is common knowledge that this will not nearly cover the demand made by the sports fishery on a yearly basis.

British Columbia was one of the last provinces to feel the effects of the current depression. At a time when other parts of Canada were beginning to feel the effects of a recession, the economy of British Columbia was reasonably healthy. However, when the recession did occur in British Columbia, I believe it hit British Columbia harder than it did other provinces. While people here were talking about a recovery almost a year ago, British Columbia has yet to recover from the recession. This is largely due to the action of the provincial Government, combined with the cut-back mentality of the federal Government.

The crisis in unemployment in British Columbia, Canada and the world today is not simply a political and economic