

created down in Newfoundland in a drydock which is owned by the government.

So, do not have the government believe that we are going to accept their protestations that the few dollars they save in these amendments are going to create employment. It is all politics. Unfortunately it is not the politics of creating jobs in a member's district, a member who might get some credit if a synchrolift went in the dockyard down in St. John's. That is the kind of thing we are up against with this government.

Job creation is what we want. In Newfoundland we have a population of 563,000. Our total personal income was \$2,767 million in 1977. So, we can ill afford to lose \$50 million. It is a major loss. We would lose something even if our own amendments are carried here. But the hon. member for St. John's East and I are prepared to support the amendments which this side of the House is putting forward because we realize this country cannot survive with the huge kind of deficits it had in recent years. We realize something has to be done.

There are some abuses in the unemployment insurance system. Therefore we are prepared to see our province get a bit less and support that, but not in the inconsistent, irrational, cruel, unfeeling way which has been put forward by the Minister of Employment and Immigration who has been given a chance now to make a much better adjustment. It is supported by all the provinces and by the official opposition, but not supported by that flotilla to my left which will not be floating in here after the next election. No, they will support nothing. They are for spending. Lash it out until kingdom come. They are not worried about deficits. They are not worried about economic development. They are not worried about creating jobs. They are just squawkers here wanting to spend more and more every day. They want to spend. They have no sense of responsibility whatsoever, not even the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt).

In our province we had an unemployment rate of 15.9 per cent. In 1976 it averaged 13.6 per cent, in 1977, 15.9 per cent, and this year at the moment it is 16.5 per cent adjusted. Imagine, one province in the country has 16.5 per cent unemployment. Alberta has 4.5 per cent, Saskatchewan has 4.6 per cent. Youth unemployment—

Mr. Nystrom: Socialism.

Mr. Crosbie: Potash and other forms of ash. Newfoundland, youth unemployment, 23.5 per cent; Saskatchewan, 11.3 per cent.

• (2132)

I think it was a famous American who said the nation cannot survive half slave and half free. Perhaps it was Abraham Lincoln, a tall gentleman with a beard, and not George Lincoln Rockefeller. He said a nation cannot survive half slave and half free. That is what this nation is. The half from Quebec to Newfoundland is half slave, and the other half from Ontario to British Columbia is half free. The whole set-up is half assed.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Unemployment Insurance Act

Mr. Crosbie: You cannot be half slave, half free, and half assed. This problem must be overcome, the problem of the waste of human resources in this country from the Quebec border to Newfoundland, the four Atlantic provinces and Quebec.

What are the hon. gentlemen opposite going to do about it? Absolutely nothing. They have been in power since 1963. They do not have the tools and they cannot overcome the problem. All they can do is bring in suggestions to save money on unemployment, money that should not have been spent in the first place.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Tell us what you would do.

Mr. Crosbie: I am not going to tell you tonight what we would do. I am telling you now what we propose to do with unemployment insurance. When we take over office later in 1979—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: The election has to be called in 1979. We will be introducing amendments such as those which have been proposed by the brilliant member for York-Scarborough (Mr. McCrossan). The hon. gentleman will have two tears in his eyes on election night, that is the two-tier system.

We know these are not simple problems. We are not saying tonight that gentlemen opposite should have created full employment last year or full employment this year. I know they cannot do it. I know the labour force is increasing rapidly in Canada. I am not a dumb-dumb.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nystrom: Withdraw.

Mr. Crosbie: I am not like the hon. gentlemen to my left, dumb-dumbs or completely irresponsible. They are one or the other. I have been in a government. I know that we have an increasing female participation rate. There is no reason why we should not have it. We should have more women in the work force if they want to work. We all know there are these causes, that the labour force is expanding so rapidly it is hard to keep up with creating enough jobs and employment.

There will be the same problem for the next government, us. That is why I am tender tonight toward the government. I realize that the problem will be ours in three to six months' time. We will make a better fist of it than members opposite. We know there are no easy answers. However, the answer is not to come in with half thought out excuses for amendments because the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) went to Morocco.

I do not know what happened to the Prime Minister in Morocco. Somebody got to him. He really put it to him. I do not know who it was, but it gave the Prime Minister an awful shock. When he came back to Canada, the poor old Minister of Employment and Immigration had to come up with all of these brilliant amendments. He might as well admit he has