

Supply

them. We suggested that they should open up new mines, for example, the Lingan mine. They told us that they had applied to the federal Government but that there was delay.

What they were receiving from the federal Government was NEED funds for local development programs and so on. It was basically the same pattern of short-term jobs, clean-up projects such as raking leaves and so on, rather than real projects such as mining. The world market for coal is down now but it is improving. Devco just found some new markets in Korea and other places. They should be opening up these mines and providing real jobs for people in Atlantic Canada rather than being subjected to the hand-out programs of the Government.

We have much to learn from Atlantic Canada, but I have something to say of a general nature. The rest of Canada may soon suffer some of the recessionary effects that have been with Atlantic Canada for so long. I am referring to the high rate of unemployment which we now have in the country. This has been more traditional in the Maritime Provinces, in Atlantic Canada generally. It seems that a third of that unemployment is unemployment created by Government, by monetarist policies or by tight policies which have literally squeezed the economy and produced a lot of unemployment. It is purposeful unemployment. People in the Maritimes and elsewhere in Canada should realize that the Government through the Bank of Canada created a high level of unemployment.

As I said, I think that amounts to about one-third. I think the other two-thirds of the present unemployment is structural, that is, the result of a change in the whole structure of industry. We are seeing more robots. We are seeing more high technology and more office machines replacing secretaries and so on. This is affecting the entire country and will continue to do so. The budget itself predicted the unemployment rate at about 12 per cent to 13 per cent this year and again next year. It could even be worse. We will have to face the new society. We can talk about long-term solutions, but in the motion before the House there are in fact no long-term solutions.

Let me suggest a few solutions before I sit down. First, we need to retrain workers; all Parties agree with that. We have to go at it in a big way. We need more than just retraining; we need to give working people, in Atlantic Canada and elsewhere, some control over what capital is doing and what companies are doing. Often companies want to go through technological change, so they move, for example, from Atlantic Canada or from central Canada to the United States, or from British Columbia to Manila. What happens to the workers in these industries? They are thrown out on the streets. Some people say that more jobs will be created in the high-tech society. I am not so sure about that, because the jobs will go outside the country.

Other people say that more jobs will be created in the manufacture of the robots or the machines. If we look at the history of Canada, we have not really made machines. If we look at the mining industry in particular, we do not make many of the mining machines in Canada; we import them. We will have the same problem with high-tech. As the Minister of

Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) said publicly, we could have a major problem in Canada with workers rioting in the streets; at least, that is what the headlines indicated. We have to look at controlling the areas in which the companies will move. Workers should be given some say and be on the boards of directors. We have to talk about part-time work, a lot of which is in Atlantic Canada. We cannot have small employers paying full wages for part-time work. We will have to subsidize the part-time work, which may mean a new idea of a guaranteed annual income. We will have to make companies and Crown corporations more open, and we require some real economic plan for the country.

In my limited amount of time I suggest to the people of Atlantic Canada, and indeed to all Canadians, that we have to adapt some really radical programs. I am not afraid to say the word "radical", unlike the Conservatives and the Liberals. We need radical programs to survive in a radically new age. I know what Hon. Members opposite will say. I see the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans). He wants to leave it to private enterprise. This is what Atlantic Canada has done for the last 100 years. Atlantic Canada is an example of where investment and industry has moved out. It is a wonderful place with great people, but we have not been fair to Atlantic Canada. The same process will happen in central Canada and in western Canada if we do not get a handle on the new high-tech society of the future.

I thank the House for the opportunity to raise that point and to say basically that some of the problems in Atlantic Canada require long-term solutions, as do those in the rest of the country.

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to participate in this debate which will either close with my words or the clock, one or the other, by 5 p.m.

I listened with interest to the remarks of the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell). I understand his traditional, doctrinaire approach. He was not trying to be condescending to Atlantic Canada; he tried to be fair in his way.

Since I come from Atlantic Canada, let me indicate that we are sort of a test tube of a mixed economy situation. We have had the philosophy of private enterprise. We are small and have had to compete against central Canadian markets. We are supposedly the wharf of the Atlantic, but with the rates on Atlantic shipping sometimes we do not obtain the benefit of our geographical position. We in Atlantic Canada have had by circumstance and by reality a mix of the private sector with the public sector and that is one reason we have survived.

● (1640)

In these closing minutes before five o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I want to address my remarks to one of the matters that has been touched upon by all of the Members from Atlantic Canada who have spoken today. That is the Maritime Freight Rates Act which, in our opinion, is our symbolic Crow. As in