

*The Budget—Mr. Cassidy*

We need action that is now, action that is dedicated to moving Canada to full employment and bringing down the rate of unemployment among younger Canadians. I wish to make a number of suggestions in that area. First, the Government of Canada should be co-operating with the provinces in which lumber is an important industry to ensure that there is a major program of reforestation in all those provinces. I regret the circumstances and the decision of the Government to impose the lumber export tax, and my Party has made our position clear on that particular question. Those tax revenues, if they are coming in now, should be used to protect and enhance a major resource so that we can leave it to our children and our grandchildren, as opposed to destroying it in this generation. That would be a major source of employment in one-industry towns in rural regions of Canada. We need programs for agriculture that will ensure government participation on more than an *ad hoc* basis to maintain the agricultural economic base in western Canada in light of what has been happening with the suicidal grain wars between the European Economic Community and the United States.

It is time that the Government of Canada, and it could have done it in this Budget, announced that it will definitely award the contract for the Polar-8 ice-breaker to shipyards in British Columbia where Versatile has, I believe, won the bidding, and that that be undertaken now as a job-creating initiative. It would be a sovereignty-defending initiative for all Canadians. I suggest that the design for the project be carried out using the Canadian experience and technology that was gained in the Beaufort Sea. I suggest that the Government should not thoughtlessly put to one side the experience that was gained in the Beaufort by Alberta companies by allowing a foreign shipbuilder to design the Polar-8 at costs which I understand will be much higher.

In terms of agriculture I say, on behalf of my friends from western Canada, is it not time we got Canagrex back in operation in order to ensure that we can effectively market Canadian agricultural products around the world? It should be reinstated not just for our grain products but for our meat products as well. Is that not something that is a priority? I think that it should be. The child care proposals which I just put forward would create an estimated 50,000 jobs. In British Columbia and in the Atlantic much more can and should be done in the area of fisheries enhancement and experiments with fish farming to make that resource into a permanent source of revenue and of jobs.

During 1985 my colleagues and I travelled across the country conducting a task force on jobs. We found that the potential for job creation and economic development at the local level was far greater than many people in Ottawa in the federal Government's advisory forces comprehend. We concluded that Governments at all levels should be initiating programs of community-based economic development. This would involve municipalities and regional bodies, small businesses, co-operatives, trade unions and caisses populaires, not just grants to big business.

The Government of Canada should be engaging in long range economic policy planning with different regions and different municipalities. We need and should have an economic diversification fund for single-industry towns. We need advance notice of plant closures as a matter of legislation so that communities, in conjunction with the federal and local Governments, can plan for plant closures by trying to avoid them or by trying to redeploy resources in other forms of employment before those jobs are lost.

I suggest it is time to put into place a program for social housing that will increase social housing units to 50,000 per year. Too many Canadians just cannot afford the houses that are now being built. This measure would create tens of thousands of jobs at an expense which is affordable to the Treasury.

Because we have in mind the problems of the deficit and so on I also suggest that at the national and regional level many of the approaches to full employment need not necessarily be costly. I will give one specific suggestion. The Economic Council of Canada has been making some suggestions about people being able to bank a certain amount of their income in order to take it out at other times, enabling them to manage their incomes over time a bit better. I suggest there are many Canadians who would like to take a course, take a trip, spend a year with a young child who has just come into the world, or for some other reason they would like to take some time out of the workforce without losing their attachment to a job. I suggest that legislation to permit that should be seriously considered as a part of the Canada Labour Code. I also suggest that people who wish to do that should be able to put aside and shelter from taxation a certain amount of their income for perhaps two or three years in order that they can draw the income out and maintain an income stream when they have taken time off for their sabbatical year, their trip, to paint that painting or to take that course or whatever it is they plan to do.

We need to look at labour market policies in general in order to see whether there are means by which work can be shared more effectively or the obstacles to work-sharing can at least be re-examined to ensure that they are not unrealistic and do not force people to choose either to work full-time or not to work at all. The latter means that they must work full-time rather than lose their attachment to the labour market.

Canada's municipalities have been pressing for federal co-operation in terms of getting their economies moving and in terms of renewing the infrastructure of roads, hospitals, water and sewage works and other municipal services. That is a demand which would help to create 50,000 jobs if answered. I suggest that that, too, is something which should be responded to positively by the Government.

Finally, it is time that the Government of Canada, in conjunction with the provinces, acted vigorously in showing initiative with respect to the problems of youth.