

to support a decentralization move, and to put pressure, as will my colleague and I, on the Minister of National Health and Welfare to change that position. There are Senators who are of the same political stripe as colleagues across the way who are deploring this type of action. They are really upset, as I am, and as my colleague is.

In conclusion, we will continue to raise these concerns to the Minister in the hope that he will change this regressive step. The record ought to clearly show that the Tory Party nationally, confirmed by the Premier of the province, agrees with such callous measures.

I have a question for the Hon. Member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys. I would like to ask him what other avenues he is going to explore to try to have this measure changed and corrected so that those jobs that were promised in a hard economic area of this country will be restored to those people.

Mr. MacLellan: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the Hon. Member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. Dingwall), who feels as I do about this particular project having been cancelled, and the insensitivity and utter disregard for people in an area, who need jobs, being left completely out of the thinking of the Government when it made its decision. Before I answer the Hon. Member's question, I want to quote from the economic and fiscal statement. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) said:

I want to underline this Government's commitment not to act prematurely or with insensitivity on these issues.

Try to rationalize that quote with the action of the Government in that regard. I have spoken to the Prime Minister about my feelings toward the cancellation of this project. I have spoken with the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I have written a letter to the Prime Minister with a copy to the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen). I am hoping that this decision will be reversed, not in my interests or in the interests of the Hon. Member for Cape Breton-East Richmond, but in the interests of the people of Cape Breton who need the jobs so badly. They know, as we their representatives know, that the jobs will take a long time to come about. They require a great deal of planning. The 85 jobs that were there will take a long time to replace, certainly with the programs this Government has brought forward and with the attitude of this Government in its economic and fiscal statement.

Mr. St. Germain: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member. They speak of insensitivity and they cite the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald): I would say \$430 million to maintain programs that had not even been previously initiated is a definite indication that there is sensitivity on the part of this Government. That sensitivity toward the working and the unemployed will continue.

I would like the Hon. Member to explain something to this House. For the last four years his Party tried in vain to improve the plight of Canadians. The deficit has increased, unemployment has increased, and interest has risen to rates that we have never seen before in this country. The Canadian people have spoken. On September 4 they gave this House,

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this country, that Party and that Party a clear message. I understand that they are now in Opposition. We are going to keep them there for a long time. They have a job to do in Opposition. Why do they not give this new administration a chance? Why do they not show leadership to Canadians and to the country, showing that everybody is behind this change for which Canadians asked on September 4? They should put their shoulder behind the wheel and let's all work together. I would like a reply as to why they will not give this new administration a chance and then carry out their job in Opposition when the time is ready.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys on a one minute answer.

Mr. MacLellan: Mr. Speaker, I am certainly prepared to give this Government a chance. There are people who are unemployed; they need jobs. They face a winter without any income. I refer to those situations where neither the husband nor wife is working and where there is no unemployment insurance, no welfare, no income of any sort. How long can we expect them to sit back and gaze gaily at their television screens while the Government cavalierly jokes about the plight of low-income and unemployed Canadians, as was done here today?

● (1610)

The Hon. Member mentioned a \$430 million Canada Works Program, a follow-up to the program the Liberal Government has had in place for years. That program was brought in every year. It is great that this Government has brought the program in again, because it is important. Do you know what that program does, Mr. Speaker? It gives people an income. It allows people to work and have an income for themselves and their children. It also allows projects to take place in areas that are experiencing difficult economic times, it allows organizations and businesses to spend money in order to redevelop their operations and buildings which would otherwise fall apart and decay. This allows communities to stay together.

I feel sorry that the Hon. Member does not have the compassion or feeling toward ordinary Canadians that would allow him to understand the plight of these people. I would like to mention one more thing, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very quickly, please.

Mr. MacLellan: I would like to quote from the economic statement of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). As reported on page 102 of *Hansard*, the Minister of Finance said:

We are considering the introduction of a tax designed to ensure that the effective tax rate for high income individuals does not fall below some minimum level.

He goes on to say:

We must also take care not to complicate the tax system unduly—

The Minister will wait and wait to tax wealthy Canadians to the extent they should pay, yet people with low incomes, fixed