

### Taxation

We have a federal government that talks about a billion dollar job program, but the problem with that is that there are no jobs for those people when they get their training. In the lumber industry companies are laying off permanent workers but they are also now laying off apprentices. Apprentices are unable to get their training at the trade schools in British Columbia because they do not have the appropriate number of hours of employment to qualify. Both the federal government and the provincial governments are preventing young people from getting training. These are the people we so desperately need in Canada if we are going to meet the economic conditions which we hope for, with progress and growth in energy sectors, in the microelectronics industry, in shipbuilding and others industries that we as Canadians need for our future growth. The young people of Canada are particularly hurt this year because of the economic conditions that are being imposed on them by the federal government and some of the provincial governments which support the federal programs.

● (1550)

Health care services in British Columbia are feeling the effects of the present economic condition. We find that more and more nurses and hospital workers will be out of work, thus reducing the health care available to the population of British Columbia.

I want to talk about why these conditions exist. The message that indeed we are in a crisis situation has not reached the Government of Canada, despite the protests of the business community over the budget, the objections to the high interest rate policy by the Canadian Labour Congress and the 70,000 to 100,000 people who paraded outside the Parliament Buildings on November 21, and the hundreds of thousands of letters which were sent to the minister objecting to the provisions of the budget.

When they talk about compassion, do they ever think about what it means to a home owner who has worked all his life to build his home, only to find that his mortgage rate rises from 11 per cent or 12 per cent to 20 per cent, 23 per cent or 24 per cent and that he has to forfeit his home? Do they ever think about the feelings of that individual or the feelings of individuals who built up consulting firms or businesses of any nature and suddenly find that, because of the high interest rate policy, their businesses are foreclosed, put into bankruptcy or into receivership? I do not think the government really considers the feelings of these people or what it is presently doing to the economic and social health of the country.

We repeatedly hear that the reason for the high interest rate policy in Canada is to bring down inflation. Over and over again the government has been reminded in the House that the inflation rate is not abating. In fact, the inflation rate is still around 12 per cent, despite the high interest rate policy, bankruptcies and the loss of farms, homes and fishing vessels. What are we gaining in the country? We are losing our skilled workers to the unemployment rolls and we are losing income from people who could be working and contributing as Canadian taxpayers to the social programs of which we are so proud.

The high interest rate policy is being adopted because President Ronald Reagan adopted that program in the United States. It is not only the Liberal Party of Canada which supports that policy; it is also supported by the Tories. When President Reagan addressed the House and gave us an economic lecture, the Tories rose en masse with a standing ovation and a thunderous applause for the economic policies which he wanted Canada to implement in support of economic conditions in the United States. There are ten million people out of work in the United States. There are 1.5 million people out of work in Canada. The Conservative government of Britain is putting it to the British people, where there are three million people out of work. All these governments follow the same policy as the government across the way. What is Canada gaining from it? We are not gaining anything from it, and we know that we will not get anywhere with the present government. It is encouraging that people in the United States are finally awakening to the fact that the monetarist policy supported by hon. members of the Conservative and Liberal parties is not working there. It will not work here either.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Miller:** The Tories do not like to be reminded of their policies. They like to fool the Canadian public into thinking that they are progressive. They are not. They are conservative and supportive of the republican government in the United States.

What about the job-creation policies of the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy)? Perhaps he should be referred to as the minister of unemployment. He offered 10,000 jobs to the province of British Columbia through a job-sharing agreement with that province in the woodworking industry. This would almost employ the people who are out of work in my riding. It is not a permanent job creation program; it will supposedly enhance our future forest industry. We support the concept that we should maintain and look after the forests in British Columbia.

At the same time as the minister put \$24 million into that program, we have MacMillan Bloedel in Nanaimo laying off woodland services people. These are the people who conduct experiments to ensure that we have growth in the future; they do the spacing and the fitting to ensure a healthy forest. Companies are laying off the people who do that work, and people are put back to work through government subsidies to do the same job. The government should respond to those layoffs by private companies and ensure that they maintain woodland services and contribute equally to the forest silviculture program.

What could the government be doing? It could sit on its rear end, as it has, and ignore the pleas of the business community, of workers, of home owners, of farmers, of fishermen and of the House of Commons. Or it could do something. It could move to bring down interest rates, the major cause of problems in my riding and I suspect the major cause of problems in the