

An important set of principles can be taken to heart. How do the Cayman Islands support their projects? A group of offshore companies register there in order to escape the tax burdens of all the other countries in the world.

What the member is suggesting is that Canada should be a tax haven for all the misfit companies around the world that want to escape their rightful obligation to pay their taxes to their rightful government.

Now there is one hell of a good employment strategy coming from the Reform Party. Let us have a Cayman Islands employment strategy, says the Reform Party. Except I do not think Canadians want to have a Cayman Islands employment strategy.

Canada is a serious industrial country, one of the top seven countries in the world. Canadians realize we need a comprehensive strategy, not just infrastructure but a wide combination. Infrastructure is important in one element; stimulation to small business is another; reduction of the payroll tax for small business; serious training programs; real attempts to get their educational system in place, a broad based comprehensive program.

That is what is going to create jobs, not following the precepts and principles of the Cayman Islands.

Mr. Jim Gouk (Kootenay West—Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, first I would like to express some gratitude on behalf of Tom Hanks who, had the Minister of Human Resources Development sought a different career, may not have won the award he received last night.

I would like to point out a couple of things. The minister talked about the apprenticeship programs, student loans, the youth service corps. He lumps them all together and says that we reject them. That is wrong. Certain programs have more merit than others.

For example, the apprenticeship program leads specifically to a direct career job and is something well worth pursuing. On the other hand to say that our poor youths after graduating from college can be helped by putting them in a make work community project which does nothing to enhance their career expectations may not be good value spent.

I would look to the unemployment insurance rebates. We often hear about smoke and mirrors. Let us look at that particular one. After we carry away the mirrors and disperse the smoke what we have is a raise in UI premiums by the government which, even before it implemented it, says: "We have created another job in small companies". I would suggest if that were true what the minister should have done was raise the rates by \$3

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instead of the 30 cents. Then the government could have knocked that entire \$3 off and would have had 10 times as many jobs.

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If the infrastructure program is needed, fine. Let us talk about the need for infrastructure repair. Let us not bring in the smoke and mirrors again and call it job creation because it does not create jobs. We have already discussed at length the fact that most of these jobs will be put to contract which will go to companies that have their crews and it will not create any new employment at all.

In creating the jobs we are talking about, the government will spend \$70,000, according to studies, to create a \$35,000 job which produces a \$10,000 benefit to the government.

To create jobs for \$1.6 million worth of people we would need \$96 billion. Even if the roof of this building opened up and that money dropped in and it was spent without increasing the deficit, we would still have no jobs at the end of that year when that money was spent. The government's infrastructure program does not create employment. It simply addresses a different problem and the problem remains.

How is the government going to bring on long term jobs when it maintains the old Liberal strategy of tax and spend and not addressing the deficit?

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am really thrilled that the hon. member with such a profound question left me 30 seconds to answer it. The question deserves that length of answer.

How do we do it? It seems to me that there is one fundamental principle the hon. member should understand. It is that investing in our country, investing in infrastructure, investing in schools, investing in roads is one of the primary elements of creating growth and jobs.

By opposing the infrastructure program that was called for by every municipality across the country to improve its transportation system they are standing in the way of long term job growth development.

In the meantime they are also facing the fact that 40 per cent or 50 per cent of construction workers are out of work and this job creation program is one element among several that will get them back to work, create growth, and show the Reform just how their Cayman employment strategy makes no sense.

The Speaker: It being two o'clock p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 30(5), the House will now proceed to statements by members, pursuant to Standing Order 31.