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in Toronto called Bridging the Gap, is being distributed to 2.5 million Canadians. It is a glossy publication. It is supposed to be non-governmental, but it contains a picture of the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Roberts), and obviously has government plans for the unemployed.

A reporter has indicated some of the jobs given in the booklet are air traffic controllers, bartenders, and newspaper editors. I would like to say that in general it is "Alice in Wonderland".

I received a letter today, and a telephone call from some students at the University of Saskatchewan in the engineering faculty. Blake Rooks indicates that of 60 mechanical engineers in his class, three have jobs; of approximately 30 civil engineers, none have jobs; there are 17 agricultural engineers, and three have jobs; of 30 geology engineers, none have jobs. That is the reality. The Government has to look to the real world where people are unemployed. There has been no recovery, certainly no recovery for students, and no recovery for those on unemployment insurance. We have to tell our Government to deal with the real world.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

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FORESTRY

SITUATION OF INDUSTRY—NEED FOR ACTION

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, Canada's forest industry is suffering from a decade of neglect. The Government has demonstrated total disregard for our most precious renewable resource and our most important national industry. Only last week it was announced that negotiations between the federal Government and the Government of British Columbia had collapsed and a long-term cost-sharing agreement for forest renewal in B.C. could not be reached. Long-term planning and positive vision have given way completely to short-term patchwork programs and band-aid crisis management.

British Columbia's professional foresters met in Vancouver last week. Their general meeting was entitled "Our Forests in Crisis". They realize that the forest industry has been brought to the brink of disaster in Canada. They realize that Canada's forest industry is quickly dying. They also realize that prompt action, long-term commitments and political will can prevent the total collapse of the forest industry. They talked of standing on the threshold of the opportunity of our lifetime. They know that the social welfare extravaganza has to end and that real action has to be taken to set our priorities and preserve our lifeblood industries.

Canadians can be put back to work in productive industries like forestry. They do not have to rely on government make-work projects to survive. The time is now. We must reverse the trend and set Canada back on the track toward prosperity.

[*Translation*]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DELEGATION FROM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF FRANCE

Mr. Speaker: I would like to draw the attention of the House to the presence in our Gallery of a delegation of members of the Foreign Affairs Commission and the National Defence and Armed Forces Commission of the French National Assembly.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*English*]

THE ECONOMY

THE BUDGET—RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED MEASURES

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. At a post-Budget briefing session with the press last Thursday, the Minister said that his Budget is not having any effect on the Canadian economy and that this makes him happy. There are 1,473,000 unemployed Canadians who are not happy. With new signs of a stalling recovery, with orders for durable goods having fallen 1.1 per cent in December, factory production having dropped in November, disappointing sales at Christmas time, and CPI figures now rousing alarm about the dangers of renewed inflation, why did the Minister bring in a do-nothing Budget with the number of unemployed so high and so many signs that the recovery is faltering?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member had bothered to read the press reports carefully, he would have seen that what I indicated was not that the Budget would have no impact on the economy but that there was no immediate large impact on the performance in the market, on interest rates or on the exchange value. I indicated that this is very much what I intended to see happening. I intended to make sure that the growth we had known in 1983 would be pursued in 1984, since what the country needs is stability and continuity in policy. I indicated that I expected that thc rate of growth in 1984 would be around 5 per cent, after having been 3 per cent in 1983, and that employment in 1984 would grow by a strong 3.5 per cent. The reaction of the markets to the budget has been the one I hoped for and anticipated. Indeed, in 1984 I expect to see the continuation of a strong recovery and that the economy will grow from the phase of recovery into a phase of strong expansion in 1984.

UNEMPLOYMENT—MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, let's see if the Minister will answer a question. In his Budget of