

the difficulties because they are part of them. The mandarins in Ottawa are not part of anything except of rug-ranking arrangements—who has the biggest rug, the largest number of secretaries, and so on.

● (1452)

I listened to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) telling us we have to quit living so high off the hog. If he believes that, I will expect to see the automatic retirement of the three top levels of the civil service. It does not mean that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) must have the social equivalent of any other minister when he goes to a cocktail party. That is not important. He got on very well before with one deputy minister, Mr. Williams. You could ask that deputy minister anything and there was nothing he did not know. Now he is to be replaced by—how many people? Is it 25? Is it 30? They are all getting roughly in the range of what Mr. Williams was getting.

Unemployment is a disaster for the government, for the individual and for the community. It is particularly disastrous for the mining industry and the forest-oriented industries where every decline in the market is immediately reflected at every level in the community concerned. The community lives or dies on the strength of the market for the products produced in the area. It is absolutely essential that if it is really interested in the future of these communities, the government diversify their economy.

I was shocked to hear the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) say today that the commodity which was being used in the Sherritt Gordon Mines could not be produced in Canada and that it was, therefore, all right to bring it in. In the end, what are we interested in? We are interested in ingots of nickel, and it seems to me that these can be produced here, with any additive which is necessary. The government will not be able to collect taxes from unemployed people. It does not seem to me that the government is much interested in taking an initiative by way of innovative steps designed to get people back to work, particularly in the resource-based industries.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise and say a few words in the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, given the fact that the opening of the session this year was most interesting and followed by all Canadians as it was done by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Like many of my colleagues, I would like to congratulate the movers of the Address in reply and emphasize again the excellency of the speeches made by these two members, the hon. member for Louis-Hébert (Mr. Dawson) and the hon. member for Malpeque (Mr. Wood). It is hard to believe that the hon. member for Malpeque, a young member who has joined us following a by-election, has been elected as a member of the Liberal party which I also represent. The constituents of the riding of Malpeque, as you know, traditionally used to choose Conservative members as their representa-

tives in Ottawa but when you see what ability the new member for Malpeque has shown in delivering his speech to this House, it is easy to understand why his constituents have made such a choice.

I want to take this opportunity to say a few words about the television and broadcasting of our debates. I am very pleased to see that we have finally begun recording our proceedings on tape, which will provide a kind of electronic *Hansard* which can be used by generations to come. Since we are able to produce those programs, I really wish we would take as soon as possible some steps to broadcast in a more comprehensive way those programs which are recorded here in this House and make them available to all Canadians.

In Canada, we are lucky enough to have a very extensive communication network, high quality facilities such as our communication satellite which is flying over us and which would enable us to broadcast our proceedings in every Canadian household. Several methods including the use of cablevision are available to us.

We know that more than half of Canadians now have cablevision which would provide an easy and cheap way of bringing the debates of the House of the Commons into the homes of the taxpayers. I would like to take a few minutes to talk about the rather sharp attacks that were made on the government by the opposition during the debate on the address in reply and more particularly on two points. The opposition savagely attacked the government on the economic situation and also blamed it for its way of dealing with the problems of national unity.

First of all on the economic aspect, I find that a bit too often the opposition tries to build political capital on the economic situation. We all know it and the opposition is fully aware of the world economic situation. Opposition parties made up of members with an intelligence that is at least average, I hope, are in a position to understand fully and know that Canada is still one of the countries doing the best among all industrialized countries of the world in face of the international economic difficulties.

A recent report released by the OECD indicated that Canada still ranks second or third, depending on the sector that was being considered, with the best economic performance.

Obviously, the rate of unemployment has gone up in Canada. However it is certainly not by taking refuge behind irresponsibility and blaming the government for everything that opposition parties in this House will help us solve the problems we face. I, for one, say that the government has always refused to take the easy way out. On the contrary, for years we have been telling people that what we need in this country is more efficient work by everyone, that every citizen must do his share and increase his productivity.

We say and repeat that Canadians, and a great number of them, are living beyond their means and this is causing difficulties in the economy. It is not easy for a government to