

ment is really committed to creating those jobs. When all of the independent companies and groups like the Conference Board and the Economic Council are forecasting economic growth in this country of less than 3 per cent—and we know that it takes about 3 per cent growth just to keep our labour force at its present level and our unemployment level from not increasing—why does the Government wait for eight or nine months to bring in a Budget? In its economic statement the Government just told us the things it was opposed to. It was opposed to research and development and renewable energy. We had one of the best developed programs for developing a new policy in renewable energy in all of the OAC and from among the western industrialized nations, yet it was cut out. We saw the government cut out things like the protection and monitoring of the environment. We saw it lay off dozens of NRC people, the cream of the crop, so they could go off to the United States. We saw the Government reduce drastically the Canadian Wildlife Service. We had a model institute for toxicology research, at the University of Guelph, associated with the University of Toronto, which would have given us a world class institution for research and development and which would have brought into play not only the training of scientists but the creation of new designs and models for toxicology research. It was a centre which would have involved the private sector, the universities and the co-operation of the Province of Ontario, but it was cut out from under us. So I think the Minister should act in the way he did yesterday at the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates where he admitted that in fact the Government was not going to keep its promise for research and development. He should come clean on this issue this afternoon instead of giving us all this gobbledy-gook.

● (1750)

Mr. Siddon: Mr. Speaker, in regard to the final remark made by the Hon. Member, I suppose he was not in the House 25 minutes ago when I gave my response to the concern he has expressed. This Government does not believe we solve problems by throwing money at them. This Government believes in sound management and the determination of priorities.

Mr. Foster: That's why you fired the scientists.

Mr. Siddon: The fact that we inherited a deficit which amounts to one-third of our annual budget is a reflection of the poor judgment of our predecessors, and they have little cause to sit in this House and criticize a Government which, by its performance to date, has shown a clear sign of renewed confidence, and the statistical indicators are showing strong symptoms of economic recovery.

Mr. Foster: Tell us about economic growth.

Mr. Siddon: At the outset of the comments of the Hon. Member, he talked about projections. Unfortunately, we have economists in this country who project by looking back. They very seldom take into account the options which face a Government. That was a significant flaw in planning when the National Energy Program was introduced by the Government

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of which that Hon. Member was a part. That was a significant flaw in judgment, which was reflected in the MacEachen Budget of 1982. That was a significant flaw in judgment, which led us to take the wrong response to the oil embargo flowing from the Middle East in 1975. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, is that people who have the power of political determination and choice between a number of optional policies have the power to influence the future of a nation in profound ways. I will assure the Hon. Member—

Mr. Foster: Why have you welched on your promises?

Mr. Siddon: I would ask the Hon. Member, if he lacks faith—to use another popular expression—to just watch us. Just watch us grow.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say something a little partisan to the Minister, and then I want to say something a little non-partisan. It always amazes me how the Minister can stand in this House—and he is an intelligent man, well educated—and say that the NDP's solution is to give money away. Then about ten minutes into his speech, he proudly announced how great the Government was today on ERDA, which he describes as grants, subsidies and interest-free loans to help the forest industry. The fact is that that is totally illogical. One cannot damn a process and then claim credit for it ten minutes later.

The Minister asks us to be positive. I think I am a positive person. I notice by the smiles of Hon. Members opposite that they agree. I live in a province, as do many of the Hon. Members who spoke today, which is out of step with the small recovery we are seeing in Canada. We have almost 15 per cent unemployment. In the beautiful Kootenay Mountains there is about 30 per cent unemployment. In Kamloops, the riding of the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis), the unemployment rate is 20 per cent or 25 per cent and up. There are tremendous problems. I think the people of British Columbia are beginning to realize that the present Government of that province has mismanaged its economy. It has been chasing fool's gold when I believe it should be chasing green gold.

I heard the Minister's notions about high-tech. He talks about free economic zones and so on. But let us use a little common sense. The real greatness and strength of British Columbia is in its resources and its people. Its resources are tremendous. We have terrific forest resources. I know the Minister and I do not differ on that. We can look at some of the European countries which have updated their technology, as we have not, with a few exceptions such as the pulp mills and the caribou. By and large, our forest industry is old and needs to be revamped. We are worried about the American trade barriers which could totally destroy our province. I think both the Minister and I agree that there is lots to be done in the forestry area. The Minister has my support in helping with the forestry agreements. But we believe that the federal Government has got off to a very poor start. We think it has dragged its heels in providing things for British Columbia. There is, however, some promise, and we will continue to press