

unbearable pressures on the economic and social services the communities offer. We do not often hear of these problems because the jobs involved are not of the scale of those lost when giant industries lay off or cut back, but they are of relative and equal importance. When a small business goes under, that frequently causes problems for other businesses which supplied either the firm in question or the people who worked for it.

I have spoken of the snowball effect of the loss of a business to a community, and today we are seeing more and more of this happening. If something is not done soon, many communities may never recover.

This government should consider the immediate expansion of the scope and guidelines of the Small Business Development Bond. Measures contained in the November budget did enlarge the eligibility criteria but then restricted application to those businesses on the verge of collapse or bankruptcy. Before waiting until a business goes under for the first time, the government should be offering assistance to small businesses which have proved their ability to swim, even against the tide. The change would be a sound and obvious way to generate much needed employment across the country.

Tourism is one of the major industries in all of Canada, and particularly in my area of northern Ontario. There is not a community, large or small, which does not welcome travelling visitors to our beautiful area of the country. Some would suggest that because the Canadian dollar is worth less than the American dollar, visitors from the United States will be flocking to this region and will help the economy of the area. While we do have our share of American tourists, the people in that country are also pinching pennies, and the flow of tourists is not great. While tourist traffic is of admitted benefit, its reduction is not the main reason that the industry is in trouble. And I point out that Canadian tourists spend a great deal more than American tourists. It is on that basis that we should be worrying even more.

The mining industry in Canada is also in trouble. This has created monumental problems in northern Ontario where many mines are located. In the first quarter of this year mining companies have lost \$119 million; 8,150 employees have been fired, and 50,000 others are facing temporary layoffs. The Minister of State for Mines (Mrs. Erola) has described mining as the backbone of the Canadian economy but has admitted that the government is doing nothing but keeping a close watch on the situation and studying ways of sparking an upturn. That is a typical response. The government spends and spends and then studies the problems the spending creates.

As I said to the House last week, the Prime Minister, having promised prior to his trip to the Versailles Summit conference that he would come back with solutions to our problems, left empty-minded and returned empty-handed. My motion at that time was that the Prime Minister, having failed in his attempt to change world thinking—let alone that of Canadians—

should call a general election and let the people of this country select a government capable of getting the nation back on its feet.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I hate to interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him has expired. He may continue with the unanimous consent of the House.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

● (1740)

Mr. Darling: There are sound policies and options open to a government which is serious about resolving the problems of the Canadian economy. The government has repeatedly demonstrated that it cannot do the job; Canadians know there are others who can.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I believe that Canada is on a perilous course. I want to do all I can to change that direction. I want the Government of Canada to stand for hope instead of despair. I want new leadership to turn the economy around and get Canada, moving forward again. I want policies to create jobs, unite the country, make the aged secure, and reduce the terrible burden of taxation and rising prices on Canadians in the lower and middle-income groups. I want policies to restore the work ethic, strengthen the family unit and be responsive to the needs and demands of the Canadian people.

It is clearly time for a change in the policies of the government, and I want to do all I can to bring them about. If the government wants to adjourn the House before it deals with the tragic problems facing Canadians, it will do so over the strongest objections that I can muster.

With over one million Canadians unemployed, our dollar shrinking to the lowest level in our history, with inflation raging and real growth near zero, it is time for all Canadians of every political persuasion to unite and develop policies for the economic recovery of our nation.

The government says that it has done all it can. It is tired and worn out. The Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) tells us to lower our sights and reduce our standard of living. Mr. Speaker, I reject policies that discourage growth and discriminate against investment. I reject the theory that the Canadian economy must slide more deeply into recession before it can regain its potential heights of achievement. I reject the government's policies. I believe that to live is to grow and that if we lower our expectations we will lower our achievements.

It is true that resources may indeed be finite, but man's ingenuity is not. We are a nation of immense possibilities and great potential. We inhabit one of this planet's greatest treasure stores of minerals and natural wealth. In energy alone we are the envy of the world. With our vast resources, the tar sands of Alberta, the untapped resources of the Arctic and the continental shelves, the coal fields of Saskatchewan and the