

*The Budget—Mr. Corbett*

are being extracted. All of these, of course, are in addition to what I mentioned earlier, the high rate of taxation.

● (1442)

The Royal Commission on Corporate Concentration background study to which I referred earlier, suggests that to Lucas' four stages we might add a fifth, that of decline. Here, the industry does close down and the town goes on the skids. Those who cannot find work elsewhere are left with virtually nothing. There is little market value for the houses. Bitterness and desperation set in among those who have invested their lives in a community which is now dying.

I have taken a little time to describe this *Pilgrim's Progress* into the "Slough of Despond" so that other Canadians from settled urban areas may know a little of life in the developing resource regions of Canada. For those who live and work in those regions, I would suggest, as I have on other occasions, that there ought to be some special tax benefits. To reduce the turnover rate, and to attract employees from urban areas where unemployment is high into regions where jobs go begging, we should offer some form of personal income tax relief, at least for those employees who remain on the job for a minimum of two years.

The Sector Task Force on the Canadian Non-Ferrous Metal Industry recommends a graduated scale of income tax remission varying with the degree of isolation and latitude. Another suggestion was that the incentive scale be graduated on the basis of temperature, by isotherms rather than geographic parallels.

Canada's economic identity has largely been based on a long tradition of growth in resource-based exports. The probability of this pattern continuing for much longer is very low, even though much of this country's huge area has only recently been the subject of intense mineral exploration. It is not, therefore, that we are running out of these resources, but that increasingly other countries are emerging as competitors and cutting into Canada's traditional share of international sales and laying first claim to any market growth. The U.S.S.R., for example, is only now beginning significant entry into the world mineral markets, and it has a vast resource base with much capability to exploit it.

Canada is vulnerable to these changes. We must continue to be supportive of our resource industries by means of public policy—including a fair tax system, incentives for exploration and development, and built-in economic advantages for those who invest their working lives in mining communities. The regional increases in the investment tax credit can be of some value to the mining sector. Above all, strong domestic growth is urgently required. This is a time for more stimulus in the economy. Contrary to what the previous speaker said, I believe that the budget now before us moves cautiously and quite responsibly in that direction.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and an honour to have been given the opportunity to

speak in this House. My compliments to you, Mr. Speaker, for the admirable fashion in which you conduct the business of this House under what certainly has to be described as adverse conditions on occasions. Please convey my best wishes to the representative of the Crown and the personal emissary of Her Majesty the Queen in this country, His Excellency, the Right Hon. Jules Léger, Governor General of Canada, and his lovely wife, Madame Léger.

My congratulations to the other fourteen successful by-election candidates recently elected. Some have had the opportunity of presenting themselves to the House during this debate or in other fashions, ahead of me. They certainly have done so in a most admirable fashion.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, Fundy-Royal which was so respectfully and admirably represented in this House by the former Progressive Conservative member, Gordon Fairweather, is a diverse constituency, nestled in Her Majesty's picture province of New Brunswick, extending from, and including, a portion of the eastern section of the city of Saint John, to the borders of the city of Moncton, on the east. It runs from the west, from more or less the boundaries of the beautiful Saint John River valley, which is known among geographers as "The Rhine of North America", up to and including a portion of Sunbury county, which lies in proximity to the capital of New Brunswick, Fredericton.

It then extends along a northern boundary which includes the principal coal mining regions of New Brunswick, the towns of Minto and Chipman. In the heart of Fundy-Royal is Sussex, the dairy centre of Canada.

There are many areas I could speak of in relation to economic development—or perhaps I should say the lack of it—in the constituency of Fundy-Royal, including agriculture, coal mining, the forest industries, potash development in the Sussex region, the Fundy trail which this government and the provincial government of New Brunswick have been talking about for so long without seeming to get any closer to agreement, but, unfortunately, time does not permit me to do so. I will have to deal with these subjects at a later time.

I should like to discuss, however, the business of unemployment in Fundy-Royal. It is certainly an area that is neglected and one where we feel there is great room for improvement and changes.

The Atlantic region, as perhaps you know, Mr. Speaker, is handled by Statistics Canada on a seasonally adjusted basis. This is extremely misleading. There is a very high seasonal component to unemployment in the Atlantic region, and in Fundy-Royal it renders the figures provided by Statistics Canada meaningless on most occasions.

The proposed changes under consideration by this House to the Unemployment Insurance Act are very critical to New Brunswick. Under present circumstances, if the bill passes the way it was presented, it is estimated there will be an additional 10 per cent load on the social services budget of the province. At a recent meeting of the federal and provincial ministers of social services it was suggested that the government consider a