

Mr. Masters: Mr. Speaker, I believe that my time is almost up. I did mention that I am an optimist. All of us must realize when looking at projections that they are only projections and will remain projections unless something else happens. I can recall a time, Mr. Speaker, when I was a sales manager and I predicted in a very—pardon the expression—conservative manner a 10 per cent growth in sales. I found that the growth in sales went to 30 per cent and yet every economic barometer from the beginning of the year on which I based what I thought might be an optimistic prediction indicated that it was gloom and doom time and that we would not do well. These barometers were from early January. By December, because of all of the things that went on in the economy in general, those predictions did not hold true.

I am not sure what my hon. colleague has in mind when he speaks of totally reducing unemployment. I think it is a goal for which we will all continue to strive but I would remind the House that projections are merely that. They are a form of looking into a crystal ball after having been given the best information at a given point in time. We sometimes do not meet the expectations of projections and we sometimes far surpass them. As an optimist, I think we will surpass them in this instance.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert) Order, please.

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[Translation]

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill S-11, an Act to implement conventions between Canada and the Republic of Tunisia, Canada and the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Canada and the United Republic of Cameroon and Canada and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, an agreement between Canada and Kenya and conventions between Canada and the Arab Republic of Egypt, Canada and the Republic of the Ivory Coast and Canada and Sweden for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to income tax, to which the concurrence of this House is desired.

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[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 62—NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION—YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wise:

That this House condemns the continuing failure of the Government's policies to restore even pre-recession levels of employment opportunities for young people at a time when hundreds of thousands of young Canadians are about to join the labour force from our schools and universities and Canada's unemployment rate for young adults remains the highest of any Western industrial nation.

Supply

And the amendment of Mr. Deans:

That the motion be amended by deleting the period after the word "nation" and adding the following thereafter:

"—and in particular the Government's adoption of the United States interest rate and monetarist policies, thereby reducing employment opportunities for young Canadians.

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to my colleague, the Hon. Member for Elgin (Mr. Wise), for having brought before the House for debate today an issue which the Government is always loathe to raise for debate, to bring into the House or to have examined. Indeed, when the previous speaker, the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Nipigon (Mr. Masters), addressed this issue in response to an Opposition Day motion, he glossed it over, if I may say, as if there were no real crisis in the country with regard to youth unemployment. What the Hon. Member does not seem to realize is that one out of every five young persons in this country is unemployed today. That is a national disgrace, sir, in a country like Canada.

The number one issue in this country today is unemployment. The number one issue under this Government a year ago was unemployment. If the Liberal Government were to be in office a year from now the number one issue would still be unemployment. That is the reason why the Canadian people will not accept this kind of government any longer.

Hon. Members who have spoken previously in this debate have said that Canada's employment rate as compared to the other ten western industrialized countries ranks eighth. That is where we stand in comparison to our counterpart countries in the industrialized world. However, when it comes to where we stand as compared to those countries with regard to youth employment, we rank last. Again, I say that that is a tragedy which the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Nipigon does not seem to recognize.

To put the statistics on the record again, Mr. Speaker, the rate of unemployment in Canada for those between the ages of 20 and 24 was 18.5 per cent last year. In the United Kingdom, that rate of unemployment was 18.2 per cent, in Australia it was 14.6 per cent, in the United States it was 14.5 per cent, in Sweden it was 7 per cent and in Japan it was an incredibly low 4.1 per cent. That is 4.1 per cent in Japan and 18.5 per cent in Canada.

● (1650)

Even if we were to look at the latest figures available to us for the young people in this category, we would find that in the United States the present rate of unemployment for young people is 12.2 per cent and in Canada the present rate is 17.1 per cent. That is a difference of five percentage points between Canada and the United States.

I suppose one can say that it is easy to rattle off a lot of statistics. They are really a group of words just bunched together. However, what you have to do is stop and analyse what those statistics mean in human terms. That is when one sees that they mean hundreds of thousands of young Canadians between the ages of 18 and 25 who are unable to get jobs