

with supply. Therefore it is my intention, as I said at the beginning, to deal with the whole gamut of supply, to deal with the whole question of the economy of Canada as it relates to unemployment. Indeed, the referendum in Quebec bears a very specific reference and relationship to the well-being and economic nature of Canada, as well as employment, not only in Quebec, but with respect to the whole nation. I just want to make some brief comments on the referendum in respect of an economic matter. If you will permit me, Mr. Speaker, I will do so.

What I intended to say was that nationhood has two dimensions, one the cultural, linguistic and other aspects of it, and the other economic. Traditionally throughout history nationhood has been used to guard cultural aspects, linguistic aspects, the traditional roots of the people. With the advent of technology, the growth of the economy of the world and the economy of nations, a new dimension has been added to nationhood which is very profound. It is the dimension of economics, economic well-being.

Because technology, and I am an instrument of the world of technology, has interrelated the world economically and has interrelated all parts of Canada economically to such a degree, in order to enjoy economic well-being a new form of nationhood has evolved in the modern world through civilization. It is called a federation of parts, a federation of parts in which the cultural and linguistic character of a part can be safeguarded and maintained in all its aspects. At the same time, the guarding of those cultural and linguistic roots of a people can be integrated through a federation in an economic well-being of a larger whole, a larger nation, and this is Canada.

Canada is one of the oldest federations in the world. In fact, I think it is the third oldest. It has bound itself together with peoples in such a way that it enjoys one of the highest standards of living in the world. Its future economic well-being is related to maintaining a federation that needs some change admittedly at this time, desperately needs some change to recognize regional aspirations and regional needs, but it is the creation of mankind, and it is a modern creation which indeed ties together the ability to sustain a culture and a language and the ability to sustain all these aspects with economic well-being.

● (2150)

Let me come back to budgetary matters. Let me go back to what this government has brought before this House, the guidance it has provided us in the last several weeks and the guidance it will provide us in the coming months.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The hon. member says he wants to talk about budgetary matters. I would remind him that the bill before us is very narrow in its scope and I invite the hon. member to address his remarks to the subject which we are considering, the employment tax credit act.

Mr. Yurko: Again, I want to indicate to you, Mr. Speaker, that the principle behind this bill is job creation. The employ-

Employment Tax Credit Act

ment tax credit act provides incentive for job creation all across the land and is very broad in its scope. The bill before us brings in amendments to an act which deals broadly with the economic well-being of the nation and the creation of jobs in different parts of the country, a bill which has relevance to the budget and relevance to every provincial act in terms of employment creation. I would beg of you, Mr. Speaker, to allow the latitude you have given so far to hon. members taking part in this debate.

I should like to say again I am waiting for economic guidance from the other side as to the principles which should be established to deal with the unemployment problem. Where are the principles in the amendments this bill puts forward? Where is this budget which we have been promised? Let me suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that there are people in this nation who are providing leadership, people who are providing economic guidance for the country as a whole even though it is not being provided from the other side of the House.

A most remarkable conference took place in western Canada during the last several weeks in the course of which four leaders of western Canada recognized that this government needed help in the field of economic policy. They recognized it needed help in terms of policies for the creation of jobs. So they got together, four premiers, in Lethbridge, Alberta, and put forward certain suggestions to assist the government. What did they say after reviewing the problems of the nation—not only of western Canada but of the entire nation? Here is what they said:

High interest rates are causing hardship for many Canadians and represent a serious economic problem for the country.

How can one create jobs and provide subsidies for job creation when interest rates are moving entirely against this type of action? The premiers are deeply concerned about the unacceptable and unfair impact of high interest rates on home owners, small business, farmers, forest workers, and the development potential of the west. Acknowledging the responsibility of the federal government for interest rate policy, the western premiers regretted that there had been little progress in meeting the mutually-agreed commitments made at the first ministers' conference on the economy on November 19, 1978, by this government.

An hon. Member: One of them concerned employment.

Mr. Yurko: One of them was employment. They were disappointed that the governor of the Bank of Canada was unable to attend the western premiers' conference to discuss monetary policy and the policy options open to Canada, matters directly related to employment and the measures necessary for creating it. The western premiers pointed out that current high interest rates are symptoms of much more serious structural problems in the Canadian economy, namely, the balance of payments deficits and the federal budgetary deficit. To address these deeply-rooted structural problems they suggested a number of proposals which could form a major part of a national economic policy strategy to avoid automatic track-