

in Washington a few days ago concerning textiles. Our Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Chrétien), for whom I have great respect but whose managerial skills deserve little praise, assuming of course that he is truly serving Canada's interests, suggested in a press release a few days ago that he is finally accepting the restrictions now coming from the United States. And so it is that at home, in my own town, industries like the Robin Brothers and the Utex Corporation with job capacities of 1,000 and over, will soon wake up with an unemployment rate where production will be 30 per cent below capacity, precisely because we have no economic leadership in this country. We have no industrial strategy, neither short nor medium-term, let alone a long-term one.

We already held an opposition day on this subject and we must come back to it, because what will cause Canada's breakup, if this ever happens, are economic rather than linguistic or constitutional issues. We are told that Créditistes have no new proposals. What kind of proposals does the government have to check unemployment? Forgetting the late Opportunities for Youth program that was quite similar to the Young Canada Works program, forgetting the Canada Works program which anyway succeeded the late LIP program, and in the final analysis there is not much difference between the two, basically the government is only putting forward rehased temporary make-work measures in the services area, while unemployment is competing with employment, while all the medium business community is neither encouraged nor helped.

I am in agreement with the previous speaker that our major problems can only be solved if we, in this House, put forward objective and impartial views. Let us assume that the hon. member for Lapointe (M. Marceau), the hon. member for Joliette (M. LaSalle) and myself got together and invested our capital in a Canadian company. By the end of the year, we would be penalized by the capital gains tax, we would be penalized in our own tax returns, and finally, few Canadians are encouraged to invest in those conditions. It is the opposite. Consumer credit has increased more than ever and the collective debt of both individuals and municipalities or provinces has increased continuously. The public debt has doubled since the present government came into power eight years ago.

One day we shall have to pay back those loans and the accrued interests. In order to do so, we shall have to tax the people even more, those very people who are out of work and whose purchasing power is eroded because of the inflation which this government has failed to wrestle to the ground. This is why, Mr. Speaker, we say in this motion, but not in a partisan way, that this government has lacked and is still lacking in leadership. This is why we put this motion forward today. Before and during the recent by-elections, the government candidates said: Vote Liberal. We will give a new impetus to the economy. This is what our Prime Minister said, as reported in a newspaper: The May 24 by-elections are important for our future. It is time to ensure the development of our economy. We all agree on this point. It is time to promote Canadian unity. There again, we all agree on this point. The Prime Minister should understand it and stop

### *Economic Conditions*

needing the Quebec government every night on the news. It is time, according to the Prime Minister, to work more than ever for the future of all Canadians. On May 24, let us vote Liberal.

This is what we hear from the government. There is no suggestion for solving the unemployment problem, Mr. Speaker. Before the recent elections, this government was in power and we had over one million and a few thousand unemployed in Canada. Now that the elections are over, we are just about at the same point where we were at the time of the general election of 1974; now that the same government is still in power, Mr. Speaker, we are again waiting for solutions to the unemployment problem in Canada.

When I listen to the premiers of British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Quebec or of the Atlantic provinces, I find a will to live together, a will to build a great country. I find a will to participate more actively in the development of this country, to sit down at the same table and to discuss the appropriate ways of building such a country. We must absolutely innovate in this area and stop saying that because a solution is advocated by the Progressive Conservatives, the Liberals, the New Democratic Party or the Social Credit, it is ridiculous.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, as I said this government has no short, medium or long term industrial strategy not only to give a new impetus to our economy but to allow as many Canadians as possible to take a real part in the process. And as long as this government has no such strategy, it will not be able to do so alone, for Canada does not belong to the Liberal party: it will have to do so in collaboration, as was said earlier by the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) and the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Marceau). The government should not ask us to be objective for the sole purpose of preventing us from criticizing, and then take decisions which ignore the proposals made by opposition parties.

Mr. Speaker, we have specific proposals to make. The economic recovery is an important one. Eventually, the Unemployment Insurance Act will have to be revised completely so that our unemployed people will no longer act like robots when looking for jobs that do not exist. As my colleague for Témiscamingue was saying, there are about 300,000 jobs available now in Canada, but there are one million unemployed people, roughly speaking, who are forced under the law to look for jobs three times a week, which makes three million people a week or 160 million a year looking for jobs, Mr. Speaker. We should not go crazy in this country and force people to look for jobs which do not exist. Unemployment is going to cost us this year more than \$1 billion over and above the costs of an all pervasive bureaucracy. Once again, this leads to collective disgust for the government, and to the deep feeling that the Canadian people do not participate in the economy of their country. And I ask the hon. member for Lapointe, as well as the others, when they go back to their riding, to talk to the unemployed and to ask them what feeling of participation they have, if any. On the contrary, and I hope