

Member of Parliament and to try to maintain some degree of obligation to veracity when he speaks in this House. He was not alone. I do not want to single out that particular member, but that is an example of the kinds of things we have heard all week.

We heard the members from Saskatchewan hooting, hollering, and whooping in the backbenches saying that the western fund has disappeared. It has not disappeared. The very day the budget was released, we had the distribution of the Gilson report which has a \$3.2 billion commitment from that western fund to totally modernize western rail transportation. That would create 10,000 new jobs in western Canada based upon that fund.

Members opposite say that fund has disappeared. Of course it has disappeared. It has been put on the table so that farmers, producers, and commodity people in western Canada can put it to work to modernize the railways system in western Canada so that we can move our goods to market, sell and create jobs in Canada. Somehow the hollow head from Churchill (Mr. Murphy) says that that fund has disappeared. The only time we know he is awake is when we hear his head rattle.

An hon. Member: At least he has something in it.

Mr. Axworthy: It is very loose. I do not think this House deserves that kind of misdirection and misinformation.

We are here today to talk about something which we think is important to Canadians, and that is the creation of jobs and work for Canadians. Every budget that is put together reflects or mirrors the reality of a society. It means that we have to make difficult choices. There are infinite demands.

Any one of us, whether within our personal ambitions or in our communities, province or region, have a shopping basket full of demands that we want answered. Unfortunately, the other side of the ledger is that for those infinite demands there is a limited amount of resources. That is the rough part of having to be in government and having to make these tough choices.

Perhaps the inexperienced members in that corner have never experienced, and those in this corner experienced only briefly, the knack of knowing how to provide leadership in this country and making difficult choices in a difficult period of time. There are hard choices, tough ones. We live in a world where there are no easy chances. There are no quick gimmicks.

We have confidence that Canadians are not going to be inveigled by those false prophets. They understand full well that the time has come in Canada to start making tough choices about where we want to go. It is not because we think there has to be some great depression as has been prophesied by members opposite. We realize that the only way we can restore our economy and rewrite the social fabric is to get busy and make those choices that must be made.

The choices are very clearly enunciated in this budget. We want to create work for Canadians. We realize that as events have unfolded and evolved in this country and around the world, one of the critical needs is to make sure that people have work. We feel for the 1.2 million unemployed in this country. There is not a member on this side of the House who

has not visited the unemployed in his or her area and talked to unemployed lumberjacks, automobile workers or miners. We know the kind of suffering and anguish suffered by those without work. It is for that reason that the budget of this government has put \$2.3 billion on the table which will create in immediate, direct terms 200,000 jobs. That is not something to be swept away, ignored and neglected. That \$2.3 billion is a major commitment by this government.

We have heard wild cries of condemnation from members on the other side. They say we are changing the tax system, that we are deindexing down to 5 per cent or 6 per cent for certain tax brackets and changing the pensions and some of the allowances. Yes, we are doing that. We are doing it because we believe there are enough Canadians who feel compassion and concern for their fellow Canadians who are out of work. They are prepared to give up a small portion of their benefits and advantages to help 200,000 Canadians return to work.

We have confidence that there are enough Canadians who are prepared to share their benefits and advantages rather than hoard them in a selfish little pool as members opposite advocate. We strongly believe there are millions of Canadians who realize the time has come when we can no longer retreat into the shell of our own selfishness but must be prepared to share. We must be prepared to share the responsibility and share the resources because we realize that we live in a difficult world.

Members opposite say that somehow the problems faced by the lumber industry can be magically whisked away by one stroke of a pen in a budget. They ignore the fact that 80 per cent of lumber products manufactured in Canada are sold in the United States for housing. They do not seem to recognize that the United States housing market is down this year over last year by over 50 per cent. With the size of the market in this country, even if we spent \$10 billion, we could not begin to match the demand of that kind of market in the lumber industry.

Mr. Kempling: They have a million housing starts.

Mr. Axworthy: Yes, but there were two million last year. If the hon. member would only wake up from his 20 years of sleep, he would realize the realities of the world we live in. The fact is that housing production is down 50 per cent. The hon. member will have the opportunity to refute those statistics.

The same is true in the automobile industry. We have internationalized our economies. We have all said it is to the ultimate benefit of our world that we provide for an economy in which there is free trade and a free flow of capital. However, there is a price to be paid for that. The price is that when interest rates go up in the United States, if we in this country do not have some parity in those interest rates, there will be a massive flow of capital out of our country that will provide an enormous deflation of any kind of investment.

The NDP say they would reduce interest rates. What would they do with the hundreds of billions of dollars flowing out of