

Employment

Mr. Kelly: I was not saying that for your benefit; I was saying it for theirs.

Mr. Manly: When the hon. member tries to maintain that this had nothing whatever to do with government policy, when, since the Second World War, the Liberal government has been trying to take a short cut to industrialization by inviting branch plants into Canada instead of developing our own manufacturing sector, he completely ignores the reality of the situation. The export of raw resources and the branch plant manufacturing sector depend completely on decisions made outside Canada. Thus our economy becomes completely dependent upon forces over which we have no control. In the face of the crisis of today, the government stands idle and says that there is nothing it can do about it and that it is not really what it wanted.

● (2050)

The third reason for the unemployment crisis is government failure and bungling. I should like to refer to some small examples of this. Turning to the fishing industry in British Columbia, because of the pressure on stocks the government decided that there would be area licensing. This means a fishing boat can be licensed either for the north or south portion of the coast. However, in order to accommodate people who own fishing vessels, a person with a licence for the north can transfer it to another boat owner who is fishing in the south. This means that one boat owner can have a licence for fishing both in the north and south if he co-operates with the owner of another vessel. Perhaps this policy looks after the problem with fish stocks. I do not know, but it certainly puts more fishermen out of work. Effectively it cuts in half the number of fishermen.

Yesterday the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) referred to the problem in the Canadian copper industry. In the time remaining I should like to refer to some steps which must be taken. First, the government should lower interest rates and make money available for housing, which we desperately need in Canada today. It should require performance guarantees for large corporations that are coming into Canada to deal with our resources. The government can do simple things to help individuals, such as amending its unemployment insurance regulations to allow high-seniority employees to take temporary lay-offs instead of younger low-seniority employees who are just getting started and are more in need of their jobs.

Last autumn the government of British Columbia had an abortive session at which absolutely nothing was done. The Social Credit government of British Columbia is a coalition of Liberals and Conservatives. The effect of the coalition is that when the government faces hard times, it has two responses. The first one is to cut back on social services and the second is to increase the giveaway of resources, in the hope of making a fast buck in order to obtain money for election goodies. The New Democratic Party presented a total of 19 practical and reasonable proposals which it wanted to see the government adopt. Not one has been adopted. I should like to refer to some of its proposals which would help to alleviate the housing,

unemployment and interest rate crisis. One was a crash program to supply Crown land for senior citizens' co-operatives and non-profit housing. Another was to initiate an intensive program of silviculture. Another was the development of the Salmonid Enhancement Program. The federal government could also be involved in some of these areas.

In conclusion, Canadians are doing badly. They deserve better. They are beginning to work and to organize in an attempt to obtain a better government, one which will lead to a decent society and a just economy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to enter into this debate to talk about an important aspect of employment—federal government efforts with regard to direct job creation. The present high rates of unemployment affect different regions in different ways. They also affect different groups in the labour force in different ways. Some groups are harder hit than others, some regions are harder hit than others. For this reason the government has had a specific policy in an attempt to target direct job-creation programs to those areas and regions of the country in greatest need. I think it is worth looking at what the government has done. If one listened to the nonsense we have heard from the other side of the House tonight, one would think that the government was doing nothing. In fact, we are doing a lot about which I should like to talk tonight.

The government is not just creating or sustaining jobs through its direct job-creation programs. It should be pointed out that there were 104,000 of them in this fiscal year alone. It is targeting those jobs toward those parts of the country and those groups of people who are in greatest need.

Mr. McDermid: Like CN employees?

Mr. Smith: Hon. members opposite should listen and learn. For example, 45,000 of these jobs have been developed through the Canada employment program by Canada community development projects and Canada community services projects.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Smith: Hon. members opposite should listen. These programs, with a combined expenditure of almost \$136 million, have targeted job creation into those regions where unemployment has been highest. For example, 38 per cent of the jobs have been created in the Atlantic provinces. We all know of the problems down there. I am sure hon. members from that region will be glad to hear about that 38 per cent. A further 33 per cent of the jobs were created in Quebec. Also the programs were targeted to those groups in society who face greater difficulty during a period such as the one we are in.

The programs which are in existence contain special measures to encourage project sponsors to hire young people, women, native people and handicapped workers. These meas-