

*The Budget—Mr. Cassidy*

technique by which psychiatric care is brought to people who are previously helpless. While I hope that occurs, many of the jobs will be just that, a job. However, many people who are unemployed would choose that over their current situation.

Many people, particularly young people, begin their careers with jobs that may not be outstanding but that provide experience on which they can progress. That essential growing experience is being denied them now. That very important commitment to full employment must come first. That will not be achieved without the Government's commitment to work with the provinces and municipalities, big and small businesses, the voluntary sector, and the labour movement in Canada. This will require a change of attitude that will influence all of our policies. It may require a review of tax policies that favour capital investment, which can cost jobs, and a consideration of tax policies that may help to create jobs rather than destroy them.

We must develop a co-operative approach in which all elements of society work together to achieve the goal of full unemployment, both at a national level and in every region and corner of Canada.

We need a sense of greater openness from employers in this country. I suggest that there are employers in Canada who still operate in the days of the great trusts of the 19th century in terms of their understanding of labour-management relations. They should open their books and reveal the situation to their employees. They should enlist their support, but make sure they benefit along with their sisters and brothers, their children and communities. I would like to see employers work together to create jobs rather than destroy them. I believe that men and women workers across the country will respond to that kind of challenge. The leadership for such an approach could and should come from the Government.

It is time to begin our journey on that long road toward full employment.

*[Translation]*

When I travel in Quebec, I am sometimes amazed by the steps taken by the former PQ Government which was quite progressive in several of its economic policies. For instance, for the various targetted regions and industries in the province of Quebec, there exist consultation panels made up of representatives from the various municipalities, regions, companies, unions, labours, volunteers who work together looking for means to reinforce the industries which may be threatened by Government policy changes or competition changes.

As recently as last year, I took part in Montreal in a conference which was really a huge consultation panel to try and develop a strategy for the futur of the city and region of Montreal for the next twenty years. Everybody was around the table. The participants had spent months preparing for that meeting. Mr. Speaker, you are well aware of this effort and how it was constructive in terms of planning, strategy, consensus as to what had to be done.

Mr. Speaker, if this approach has worked effectively in Quebec, it could also work effectively elsewhere in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I feel this is good and should be copied.

*[English]*

Let me give an example of exactly how that approach is working effectively with an NDP Government in another corner of Canada. In Yukon, which my friends there call the top left corner of Canada, the New Democratic Party has been in government for approximately one and a half years, with a majority government in the last few weeks. When they came to power, the unemployment rate in Yukon was approximately 16 per cent to 19 per cent. Today, that rate has been cut to 9 per cent, below the national average, and is still decreasing. That Government has functioned with policies which my friends describe as a combination of John Maynard Keynes and Fritz Schumacher. There has been a careful analysis of where Yukon was losing jobs and how jobs could be created by import subsidies and other measures, while working very constructively to gain a consensus from all elements of Yukon society. One of the most exciting things occurring in the Yukon is a program called Yukon 2000. It is a program of co-operative planning for the future of the Yukon up to the year 2000.

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In just over one year the Yukon has used far more local wood and timber for the construction of government buildings than it did before. That wood creates jobs locally; the steel that was imported did not. The people of the Yukon will be burning wood waste in a central heating plant to be built in downtown Whitehorse. This means that they will be using local resources and creating local jobs rather than having to pay in exports of products from the Yukon for imported oil that comes from southern Canada.

There are many other examples of what the Government of the Yukon has been doing in a few short months, which suggests to me what we could be doing nationally. The Yukon is not Canada. The population there is less than 25,000. If the lessons there were to be applied to the rest of the country, I suggest that if every region and municipality, be they populated by 25,000, 100,000 or 250,000 people, were to get together and plan in the same way perhaps we could see some of those results as well. But that would require leadership on the part of the Government.

I wish to make a few specific suggestions in terms of helping to resolve the injustices of regional disparity in our country and provide the leadership that we lack in the Budget. We have been told by the Finance Minister that these initiatives should no longer be taken in Budgets. For God's sake, when will it all come together? I do not know the answer to that question. I do know that the forthcoming tax reform will not in itself have economic impacts that can be relied upon in terms of getting the economy back to work. That was the experience in the United States, and it will be the experience here.