

As to whether we want to increase spending, my answer is this. Who increased spending in this country? Who almost tripled the debt? Who raised taxes 37 times? The Tory government. It is high time we started listening to the experts in this country, something it seems incapable of doing.

Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few moments to congratulate my Liberal colleague and point out to hon. members opposite that what we need is a government that will start thinking about what Canadians need. Statistics are all very well, but what people want is jobs. They want to work. We know there is no miracle solution. We realize that. But the projects you introduced in your mini budget do not hold out any hope for Canadians. There is nothing there that can help people this winter. We want something for this winter.

The infrastructure project proposed by the Leader of the Opposition would involve all three levels of government: the federal government and the provincial and municipal governments, each contributing one-third. We know these projects are ready to go today. Why were there no proposals for a program of this kind? It seems to me that if we had a number of projects that could start right away, to provide some hope for people who want a job between now and next summer— Perhaps the hon. member would like to comment.

Mrs. Maheu: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add to what my colleague said. Canadians are listening to us, of course. In its mini budget last week, the government predicted 5,000 more jobs.

I live in and represent the riding of Saint-Laurent—Cartierville. Saint-Laurent is Quebec's second-largest industrial city. We have lost over 5,000 jobs since this government took power. When they imposed the free trade agreement on Canadians, they said that high technology was our country's future. Philips, a high-tech company in our riding, has just let 490 high-tech jobs go in the very field that the government says is the future. I think that they really need to reflect, consult and listen.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: It being two o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed to Statements by Members, pursuant to Standing Order 31.

S. O. 31

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

CYPRUS

Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, by the middle of this month Canada must decide whether to renew its UN peacekeeping commitment in Cyprus for another six months.

We have been there for 28 years so it is understandable that our government which is being pressed to provide peacekeepers in other world trouble spots would consider ending our Cyprus commitments.

Cyprus is the last European country still occupied by foreign troops. Since 1974 the UN has passed 24 resolutions calling on Turkey to withdraw its troops.

Canada stood behind the UN resolutions in Iraq and Kuwait. We did not pull out in the middle of the gulf war. We stayed until the job was done.

Negotiations for a solution to the Cyprus problem are scheduled to begin again 100 days from now. Surely the honourable thing for Canada to do is to keep our peacekeepers in Cyprus until their job has been successfully completed rather than pulling out now, risking a new war just so that we can take on another peacekeeping commitment someplace else.

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WESTRAY MINE DISASTER

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burlington—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, 26 men lost their lives in the Westray mine disaster. Today, seven months later the widows, the children, the workers, the loved ones including Chris Martin of Thorburn, a brother of one of the men who lost his life, are still asking: Why? What happened? What went wrong?

Those widows, those workers, those children have a right to know. Canadian taxpayers also deserve to know because they footed the bill to the tune of \$135 million.

They are asking whether safety was compromised. Why did the Prime Minister act so quickly to have the deal approved? Were human lives the pawns in a political game?