

Borrowing Authority

After the economic message was delivered by the Minister of Finance, this 93 year old gentleman purchased a company employing 125 people. He indicated he has plans to add another 50 employees to the payroll of that company within the next six months.

When I hear my friends on repeated occasions asking: "Where are the new jobs coming from? Give us some evidence, some indication that private companies and individuals will respond", I give this as an example of what we can anticipate. There will not be 125 or 200 jobs, but hundreds and thousands of jobs created, because this is a new Canada. We do have new attitudes. Of course, on other occasions our friends have asked: "Where are the jobs? You have been in business for two months". It takes time to build a dike, Mr. Speaker. We must create and build a new dike. We must consult and that is the direction of this Government and Cabinet.

● (1250)

I should like to applaud the leadership of our Party. I ask my friends to enter into the dialogue in which we are involved and return to their constituents to say: "What we tried before obviously did not work. There is new hope. Let us be constructive, let us get together". This is a new era and a new beginning.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the Hon. Member for Halifax (Mr. McInnes) that I was amazed to hear him suggest very clearly that there are all kinds of people in Canada, including those in his area, who are not working because they really do not want to work. If the Hon. Member looks at tomorrow's *Hansard*, he will see that he did say that. I believe that that just is not true. The City of Halifax has an unemployment rate of over 12 per cent and it is the city that is the best off in Atlantic Canada. To suggest that the people of Atlantic Canada are not working because they do not want to work and would rather collect unemployment insurance benefits is to insult those people in a way which he or any other Member ought not to do.

How can the Hon. Member think that his have-not province can be helped when the Government has reduced the funding for regional economic expansion by \$200 million? A substantial part of that funding would have gone to Atlantic Canada. How can the Hon. Member think that his region, a region in which two of the major industries are fishery and forestry, can prosper when the Government has reduced funding to research and development in those two fields by \$1.5 million each? How does he think that the fishermen in his province can prosper when the ferry service from Yarmouth to Boston on which fish were transported at pretty low costs has been stopped? How can those fishermen be helped now when the ferry service has been taken away and they will have to travel hundreds of miles to deliver their produce, increasing the price they have to charge and making it more difficult to compete? I

would like the Hon. Member to explain to the House and more particularly to the people of Atlantic Canada how these cut-backs which the Government has implemented will help those people. We believe that those cut-backs will hurt them and will hurt them very seriously.

Mr. McInnes: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for bringing up this particular question. It is an area with which I have considerable experience. I have been involved indirectly in the fishing industry for a good number of years. The situation in the industry has been rather chaotic in the past number of years. The plans of this Government relative to the fishing industry will give it a direction instead of hodge-podge, massive regulation and intervention by government.

With respect to economic development, what the Government is going to provide and what the province wants are incentives. The province wants investment. Where will that investment come from? It can come from two sources. It can come from within Canada and from outside our borders. Nova Scotia has benefited dramatically and perhaps more per capita than any other region in Canada from outside investment. As an example of this, I would mention Michelin, the biggest employer in Nova Scotia. I would mention Nova Scotia Forest Industries and Volvo. There are a large number of good foreign corporate citizens in Nova Scotia. Unfortunately, this investment has slowed down because of FIRA and the attitude toward foreign investment of the previous government. It is our intention to change those rules dramatically. Our province looks forward to a new era of prosperity because people from foreign lands are knocking on our doors. They wish to do business in Nova Scotia, a province in which the people want to work and which has the climate for prosperity and making a real profit.

Mr. Gagliano: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member spoke about small business. I wonder if he is aware that all of the business associations in the country agree that payroll taxes affect the life of business. The first thing the Government did was increase payroll taxes by increasing UIC premiums. Can the Hon. Member explain how small business can put this Government in a new light?

Mr. McInnes: Mr. Speaker, it is good of the Hon. Member to remind the House that the situation in which the unemployment insurance fund now finds itself is accountable to the mismanagement of the Party of which he is a member.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McInnes: It is necessary to apply a little medicine. The people of Canada are prepared to accept a little short-term pain with the confidence and understanding that, because of the new initiatives of the Government, it is only for the short term. In the long term, unemployment insurance premiums will not pose the problem they have always posed under his government.