

*Extension of Sittings*

**Mrs. Dobbie:** Let us talk about trade.

**Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** We are going to talk about trade. We have lots of time to talk about it. The problem is that government Members do not even want to debate their own motion. "Get on to another topic," they are pleading. There is the new Member for Winnipeg South down on her knees pleading: "Please, don't talk about this motion, talk about something else, will you, because I can't stand the recognition that a duly elected Member of Parliament is now part of the conspiracy to erode and destroy the rules of this House". That is what is going on.

The fact of the matter is that these rules are absolutely irrelevant to what the Government wants to do. Furthermore, by imposing these rules it is going to prohibit Canadians from having a full opportunity to be heard on this legislation. By taking it into Committee of the Whole—

**An Hon. Member:** Since November 21, we have been heard.

**Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** Why do you not get to your feet and talk? What are you afraid of?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The Hon. Member for Winnipeg South Centre.

**Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** I am pleased that the House realizes that there are still some rules of debate liable to be followed so that the rabble simply cannot take over this Chamber whenever it wants.

One of the most important issues facing us is the one that was raised in the House of Commons today. One thing most strongly felt by Canadians during the past election was the question of jobs and the recognition, as it was exposed by various groups and various industries, that there was going to be serious dislocation. In the printing industry 10,000 jobs would be lost; the food processing industry itself said that 100,000 jobs would be lost; 24,000 women in the garment industry are having their jobs put at a risk.

**Ms. Copps:** They do not care. They do not care about women.

**Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** Now we see the same type of disruption taking place in softwood lumber, in shakes and shingles. Before the agreement is even signed those companies are beginning to rationalize. It is wonderful to see the new explanation. Three months before the election all the business commentators, the editorial writers, and the ministerial spokesmen

said that the reason for the trade agreement was to rationalize our industries. Now that our industries are rationalizing they say: "It has nothing to do with free trade". It is somehow happening by magic. "This is something we have been planning to do for years". We know how much hog-wash that is.

What is absolutely essential now and what our Members have been saying since we arrived back on the Hill is that it is a responsibility of the Government to put in place the type of programs to deal with the dislocation of workers and communities across the country.

Instead we have reason number one from the Minister of Employment who states that he does not have to do anything because there is already a jobs strategy, even though the jobs strategy has been criticized by every independent, reputable organization saying that it is not working and that the Minister has cut back expenditures by 32 per cent. College classrooms are being shut down today as a result of that jobs strategy program. One enormous con job of the election was when the Prime Minister went to a community college outside Toronto and had a photo-op with students, showing him talking about the new world of high technology. As soon as the camera shut down the classroom was shut down. Why? It was because the federal Government had cut off funding for that program. As soon as the photo-op is over, why keep the program going? It is no longer important. The jobs training strategy is not the answer.

• (1310)

How does the Progressive Conservative Government resolve the situation under the Unemployment Insurance Act whereby older workers who have a right to severance are not eligible for unemployment insurance assistance and training until their final severance payment is in hand, something which may take a year or a year and a half following job loss? How does the older worker get back into the job stream when he or she is not even eligible for training grants under the Unemployment Insurance Program as a result of the amendments brought in by this Government?

Why is the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mrs. McDougall) not answering that kind of question?

The reason that we on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, want a proper parliamentary examination of this legislation is that, through that process, answers to those questions could be had.