

The Address—Mr. MacLellan

in their communities. Even if they find jobs in other parts of Canada they probably cannot go to them.

Where will people be able to turn? Where is the engine for growth about which the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) has been talking? The engine for growth will be rusted to the tracks if something is not done soon for people in the country who need assistance and cannot find it through the programs of the Government. Where do they turn? From where will these job opportunities come? Will they come from manufacturing? As has been previously stated, the manufacturing sector has been hard hit by the recent recession. A tremendous amount of pressure is being put on it by banks which want their loans repaid. The manufacturing sector feels that in order to compete it must modernize and bring its business more in line with the competitive practices which are prevalent internationally at the present time.

We must turn to the resource and service sectors of the country. Again this leads to the engine for growth advocated by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister said that she would not make major energy decisions until she felt the world price had stabilized. What does she consider to be stability in the world price? When will we have these important decisions? Atlantic Canada is waiting daily for some news of what position she will take on offshore oil and gas. Frontier exploration is at a standstill. Up to 30 per cent of the wells involved in frontier oil and gas exploration agreements may never be drilled. The pace of exploration on Crown-owned frontier land is slowing down. Unless Ottawa sets new ground rules soon, drilling on the East Coast and in the Arctic could dry up after 1986 when the present agreement terminates. Every day we lose now means another day we will have to wait in 1987 and beyond.

The planning stage should be now. If the Minister is serious about creating employment in the oil sands, why is she not developing a policy? She can never be absolutely sure as to what the world price will be. If she is sure today, she may not be sure tomorrow. This does not mean that we have to sit back and wait until we have a perfect frozen world price. That will never come about. Something has to be done at the present time.

What about the fishery? The economic statement levies wharf fees and cuts back on other expenditures. It is already a severely hit industry on both the East Coast and West Coast. These important questions must be answered. People have to live in the meantime. People cannot wait on the basis of engines for growth and policies for the future. Of course it takes time to put projects forward, but people need jobs. They need some kind of income at the present time. Employment is not only jobs; employment is people's lives. We as a government and we as Canadians should be able to provide a hope of fulfilment through employment. That is very important.

What about young people who are unemployed today? If the position is better in five years they will be met with increased competition because new people will have come on the job market. There will be people in government who will say that

they are lazy because they have not worked. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) was quoted on November 9 as saying that the unemployed in this country are not looking hard enough for jobs. Does he mean that all of these people in Canada are not looking hard enough for jobs? That is ridiculous, it is callous. Something has to be done about this very serious unemployment, not only economically but from a human standpoint.

● (1600)

The youth of this country deserve more help than is being given to them at the present time. What I am saying does not constitute, as was mentioned by one Member to another, a voice of gloom. These are avenues which I hope the Government will explore. These are considerations I am hoping the Government will take. It is in the interest of all Canadians and all Members of Parliament, regardless of their political stripe.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments?

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I rise more on a comment as opposed to a question. I congratulate my colleague from Cape Breton-The Sydneys (Mr. MacLellan) and to say how I agree with what he has said here in the Chamber. He made mention of the cancellation of the decentralization program which was earmarked for his constituency, but which served a greater population than that of the City of Sydney. It serviced all of industrial Cape Breton. Those individuals who were hopeful of meaningful employment with the Health and Welfare office in Sydney were amazed at the callousness and the unfairness that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) gave to them on the occasion of the economic statement by the Minister of Finance.

Members opposite have a philosophy that they are against decentralization as a tool for economic development. That is more important when you look at the poorer regions of this country. In the poorer regions, decentralization of Government services, or, indeed, services of the private sector are paramount when you are talking about economic development. This cold and callous move by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance has to be read in the light of the operative word which was contained in the Speech from the Throne. That operative word was "consultations". Then we had \$4.2 billion in cuts.

In that specific cancelling of decentralization there was no consultation with the employees involved. There was no consultation with the municipal authorities in the City of Sydney. There was no consultation with the Member of Parliament who represents that area. There was no consultation with the Premier of the province or, as we say in my riding, those seven Tory silent backbenchers. There was no consultation; just a ruthless cut by the Prime Minister who has the gall to travel around this country and try to echo the sentiments of compassion and concern for the less fortunate areas of this country.

We will remember the cold, hard, ruthless way of the Prime Minister, but I would hope that Members of the Tory caucus, who are the silent ones over there, will rise to their feet and try