

S.O. 21

POLITICAL PARTIES

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY'S POLICIES

Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, last week the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) named a panel of party faithful to advise him on policy. Obviously he is starting to question the wisdom of the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) who believes that the people of Canada should be kept in the dark about where that Party stands on important issues.

One of those named to the advisory panel was D'Arcy McKeough, once a key cog in the Ontario "big blue machine" and now President of Union Gas. Within hours of his appointment, Mr. McKeough started giving his advice on fiscal and taxation matters. He recommended that the federal Government increase sales taxes, increase income taxes, cut tax incentives for job creation, slash benefits and programs for the poor and needy, and reduce family allowances.

One can only marvel at the hypocrisy and philosophical dexterity of a Party whose members on one hand have been professing such sympathy for Canadian taxpayers, yet on the other are proposing that they be taxed even more heavily and indiscriminately, and who plead for greater efforts on job creation, and then call for the slashing of job-creation programs. When will the Official Opposition come clean and tell the people where they really stand?

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FINANCE

EXPENDITURE OF JOB-CREATION FUNDS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CONSTITUENCIES

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, in the House on Tuesday the Prime Minister stated a falsehood regarding federal government job-creation programs. He said:

There are some provinces, such as Prince Edward Island, where more money has been spent in the Conservative ridings than in the Liberal ridings.

The exact opposite is the case, demonstrating once again that the Government is more preoccupied with porkbarrelling than with the plight of Canada's 1.5 million unemployed. The truth is that initial allocations under the Canada Works and LEAD Programs favour the two Liberal-held ridings over the two Conservative-held ridings in P.E.I. by a factor of five to one, though the actual unemployment levels in the four ridings are roughly comparable. Specifically, the Liberal ridings of Egmont and Cardigan together received \$4,734,000, while the two Progressive Conservative ridings of Malpeque and Hillsborough combined received only \$866,000 under the two programs in question.

I urge the Government to cease using taxpayers' money for partisan and political purposes at the expense of the unemployed not only in P.E.I. but in every province and region of the country.

● (1410)

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF AMERICAN COMPANY IN SAGUENAY-LAC-SAINT-JEAN AREA OF QUEBEC

Mr. Pierre Gimaïel (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I heard yesterday on television that the Kaiser Company, an American aluminium producer, is now considering opening a branch in Quebec. I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to inform the people of the Lac-Saint-Jean constituency that this would seem to provide a very good opportunity for the Quebec Government during the negotiations they will have with the Kaiser Company with a view to supplying the electricity which a new plant will require, to assess the chances of this company locating in the Lac-Saint-Jean constituency, which, like the rest of the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area, has suffered from job losses in the aluminium industry due to the fact that Alcan has to modernize its operations. The hundreds of jobs lost in this industry, which is of the utmost importance for our area which has been known as the aluminium capital of the world for over 50 years, have resulted in a serious social problem in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area. I hope that after sending the Péchiney Company to Becancour, the Province will give due consideration to this project and try to negotiate an agreement with the Kaiser Company to have them locate their plant in our area, where we have all the harbour facilities required, where natural gas is being brought to us by the Canadian Government, and where we have readily available a manpower that is extremely knowledgeable in the aluminium industry, so that we may have our share of these billions of dollars in economic fall-out from the aluminium industry in Quebec.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

LACK OF RESEARCH WORKERS IN WESTERN CANADA

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, a very serious problem is arising in the area of agricultural research funding. A slow leak is emptying western agriculture's research pail. It is now at the point where the new \$2.7 million Lacombe Meat Laboratory in my riding will probably be without staff butchers until April, 1984, even though it was ready to begin operations on November 25, 1983.

In 1983 there were 3,545 full-time employees working in the area of agricultural research. Of this number over half are employed in Quebec and Ontario. Twenty-six agricultural research jobs in Alberta have been transferred out of the Prairies by Ottawa. These, combined with reductions over the last decade, bring the total to 78. With another two research stations opening in central Canada, this could mean many more research jobs and funding lost from the Prairies.