

about 3 per cent next year. However, other independent observers do not paint such a rosy picture. The Conference Board of Canada cites consumer spending and business investment as major factors in determining the timing of the recovery, seeing some recovery of consumer spending but no reversal of the decline in the rate of business investment in Canada. I think we can understand that, considering the losses that business has incurred during this recession.

Regardless of the hoped for recovery and its timing, today Canadians live in a besieged economy. It is an economy hammered by two destructive budgets and a punitive National Energy Program, at a time when the key international markets have collapsed.

Many people in my home Province of B.C. are struggling simply to survive. I meet them on the streets and in my constituency office. There was the fisherman whose bank called his loan at the height of the salmon fishing season. There was the importer who told me in a state of near hysteria that the proposed retail sales tax changes would quite simply put him out of business. I am glad to see that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) is reviewing that provision. There was the young businessman in a state of hysteria who slammed a government form down on my desk and said: "It will take me two weeks to fill out this form and I am already losing money." There was the man in desperate need of his income tax refund who was calmly told by the government clerk that because there was a change of address his refund would be another twelve weeks in arriving. There was the single woman who had been unemployed for more than a year and who was alarmingly suicidal. There was a former employee of mine, an extremely competent secretary, who told me that in the absence of work she was having to apply for welfare. In some communities people are bartering deer, which they hunt, for such staple foods as potatoes.

On a Province-wide basis the statistics define the body count. In B.C. total bankruptcies soared 90 per cent in the first seven months of 1982. That is triple the Canadian increase. In the forest industry, which accounts for 50 per cent of our provincial output, at mid-summer the IWA, our largest forestry union, estimated that 50 per cent of union members were off work and in the logging sector the number of workers laid off rose to nearly 65 per cent.

In our second biggest industry, mining, the Mining Association of B.C. estimates that 54 per cent of B.C. mine workers are laid off or unemployed. Some of the mine closures are permanent. About 3,500 mining jobs have been lost in the last year alone, some permanently; others are lost for a year or more. There are mining towns in B.C. which are in danger of becoming ghost towns. In Yukon, where the work force is laid off through the closure of Cyprus-Anvil Mining Corporation, people are staying in Faro because they have no place else to go. They will go through a cold winter with cold comfort from this Government. The construction industry, which has suffered through a strike, is reflecting the 49 per cent drop in building permits in the first six months of this year compared

Supplementary Borrowing Authority

to the same period last year and the 80 per cent drop in housing starts since August, 1981.

This summer the B.C. unemployment rate was more than 13 per cent, which is more than double the unemployment rate of the previous year. To put that in terms of people, it means that there were 80,000 unemployed workers in August last year and that number rose to 180,000 unemployed people in August this year.

B.C. employers have projected a net hiring decrease of 25 per cent this fall. The rate at which people are applying for UIC has jumped by 80 per cent from September, 1981, to June, 1982, over the same period the year before. That is an 80 per cent increase for claims in unemployment insurance in the summer months, which are high employment months. In September this year 7,600 B.C. residents had exhausted their UIC benefits and will have to turn to welfare. That is almost double the rate for September, 1981.

The people of Canada do not need fireside chats by the Prime Minister to tell them to help each other or to work together. In Port Alberni, B.C., where, as I told the House this afternoon, 4,500 people were out of work at one point this summer—nearly one-quarter of the entire population—the unemployed have organized to form a volunteer organization which distributes food and clothing to the needy. Similarly, in the Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island, out of work people have organized themselves into a group which gives counselling to those who are losing their jobs. Indeed, one of my constituents, a student who cannot find work, is employing his skills and earning money by designing and producing anti-Government buttons and stickers. He tells me there is a good demand for his product and that he anticipates an expanding market.

This economic climate is inflicting special injuries on two groups. The first group includes the people who may never return to their jobs. It is a fact that many companies are forecasting reduced payrolls and a reduced work force when the recovery does resume in the future. Some of these people have worked at their jobs for 20 years. They are finding the outlook for the rest of their working lives to be very grim. They are obsolete in their forties.

The second group which is being especially hard hit is young people. In terms of jobs, they are in danger of becoming the lost generation. Almost one-half of the 1.3 million unemployed in this country are between the ages of 15 and 24. These Canadians are the first to be fired usually, and the last to be rehired—if, in fact, they have ever worked at all. Many of them are seeking their first jobs. In B.C. unemployment among this age group has tripled over the last year to 22.1 per cent. The national average is still around 21 per cent.

In B.C. 25 per cent of young men are out of work and two-thirds of this age group will probably be laid off over the next year. As one frustrated young man said, describing his quest to find a job, "I have as much chance of finding a job as of becoming a Girl Guide."