

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. King: I will, Mr. Speaker. The majority received by the side opposite was based on a Quebec vote which was given entirely on the basis of an appeal other than the economic issues that plague Canada. Quebec did not vote, 73 to one, an endorsement of the Liberal party's economic policies, and they should know that.

Mr. Dawson: Seventy-four.

Mr. King: I hope that the Liberals are not now telling Canadians to accept a dollar and cents premise because they received endorsement in the late election. If that is the government's theme, it is certainly living in a world lacking in reality. It is especially dangerous to us as Canadians if the members opposite believe that statement made earlier by the hon. member for Algoma.

Mr. Foster: I thought that I would straighten you out.

Mr. Rompkey: Tell it like it is.

Mr. King: I am pleased to have this opportunity to join in the debate on Bill C-19, the amendment to the Employment Tax Credit Act. I support the intent of this act and reluctantly accept its necessity. I am pleased to join in the debate because it is very apparent that this opposition must, at every opportunity, lay at the feet of the government the total responsibility for the Canadian circumstance which requires putting into effect such band-aid solutions to a major national health problem.

We have a bill to amend the Employment Tax Credit Act, to extend the act for one year to create incremental employment in the private sector. The tax credit ranges from \$1.50 to \$2 per hour depending on unemployment levels in the areas affected. It is \$2 in the Atlantic provinces and Gaspé, \$1.50 in southern Ontario, southern Alberta, B.C. and the Montreal and Hull areas, and \$1.75 in the remainder of Canada. Of the benefit available, 50 per cent goes to Ontario and Quebec manufacturing industries.

What is the reason for the necessity of such a bill? In 1968 there were just over 300,000 people unemployed; the figure projected for 1980 is over 1.25 million people unemployed. That attests to the years of bankrupt Liberal fiscal policies or, more astutely put, lack of policy.

This bill is only a stop-gap measure. We still do not have a long-term fiscal policy or even a short-term policy. I would say to the members on my left down at the end of the chamber that we Conservatives provided that type of long-term projection and policy. What about some long-term benefits created by a sense of fiscal responsibility not shown by the side opposite? They can look up the term "fiscal responsibility" in their dictionaries when they go home.

The necessity for this act symbolizes the depth of poverty and lack of resolve and inspiration which exists in this government. While perpetuating the spending regime which catapult-

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ed the nation into the disastrous economic situation which presently exists, this government proposes to apply salve to the symptoms but nothing to the disease. The disease is Liberal spending policies of the past decade and the present decade which have given Canada the largest measure of deficit spending in the history of this nation, if not in the history of the world of nations.

Having done this indignity to the economic sanity of Canada, this government now proposes to continue its policies of excessive spending without recourse to a rational application of an appropriate increase in federal government revenues. This is a government of political expediency with a quest and a thirst for power which takes it beyond the concept of acting in the national interest.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. King: Where is this great thrust, Mr. Speaker, to act for Canada? It is not to be found in the throne speech nor is it to be found in the substance of this act. How is this government addressing the prospect of 1.2 million people unemployed in 1980? We find only a preoccupation with consolidating power in Ottawa in the Liberal complex that so permeates all levels of our social and economic order. This preoccupation works to the exclusion of economic commonsense. Thus we see this government enunciating its own creed and, with galling audacity, attributing it to Canadians as a whole.

We are told by that gang over there that Canadians do not want less government, that they want more effective government. My exposure to citizens in the riding which I represent with honour tells me that Canadians want less government and they want more effective government. We proposed to provide both but we were denied the opportunity. It is apparent that this government offers just one option, and that option is more government.

The Employment Tax Credit Act is symbolic of a spineless approach to correcting a Liberal induced economic disaster. They offer a palliative, costly, temporary dilution of the problem—and do not attack the substance of the problem itself. To attack the problem might disprove the Liberal campaign position that no sacrifices are necessary to live in Canada.

We agree that the initiative provided by this bill is presently necessary. It is only necessary because this reactivated, worn out bunch with its socialist leanings is not prepared to look beyond today to address the ills of tomorrow caused by the sins of yesterday. We support the extension of this bill but decry the absence of national direction to eliminate the circumstances that create unacceptable employment levels.

● (1640)

These were the circumstances which the government we formed under the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) and the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) was prepared to address head on.

I should like to put on the record a rather alarming resumé of a report in the *Vancouver Province*. It focuses on only one