

Atlantic region which do not enjoy the opportunities we enjoy here in central Canada. Part of the decision was based on the need for decentralization so we could be in closer contact with people in outlying areas. We should look at this matter in the true Canadian context of sharing. We must provide the people of that area with a standard of living comparable to that in the nation's capital. I hope this is one move in that direction. We should not be greedy and hold everything in central Canada. We should be willing to share.

Work is proceeding on the Canadian Government Office of Tourism facility in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Completion of the new structure and occupancy is scheduled for 1983. Officials of the office of tourism have had several meetings with officials of the city, Canada Post and the Department of Employment and Immigration, to ensure the transition is done as smoothly as possible so as not to inconvenience people seeking travel information and literature on Canada. Transportation companies, including CP Transport, have been asked for plans and estimates of costs for moving the tourist information to the Yarmouth distribution centre. Officials of the Canadian Government Office of Tourism also met with Canada Post officials in Halifax recently and were assured of the fullest co-operation possible. A postal plan for servicing Yarmouth will be presented to the CGOT shortly to allow time for the new Crown corporation to settle in.

Meetings have also been held in Yarmouth with Employment and Immigration Canada in relation to possible staffing requirements for the new facility. Here in Ottawa a professional career counsellor is advising those employees of the distribution centre who will be relocating in the national capital area on retraining, job rotation and relocation.

The Canadian government wants to decentralize, and, in view of the high unemployment figures in the Yarmouth area compared with those in the city of Ottawa, I do not think we should be complaining but, rather, trying to help those people who are disadvantaged.

● (2210)

THE ECONOMY—QUERY RESPECTING MATTERS CONSIDERED WHEN PREPARING BUDGET. (B) DURATION OF RECESSION

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Mr. Speaker, my remarks tonight centre on a question I put to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on December 9 of last year. At that time I was pointing out to him that, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, (Mr. Gray) in the House, I felt he should inform the House concerning the plight of some 140,000 people who the Canadian Manufacturers' Association had indicated only that day had lost their jobs over the last three months. The emperor was in one of his snarky moods that day and simply said "I will be very happy to convey the hon. member's representations to the minister; I believe he will be in the House presently." I followed up my question by asking would he indicate why he and the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce had put us in the place where we were experiencing such a serious recession in Canada. The emperor

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then came back and said that he could not agree with that premise and that he had no answer to give.

The reason I have reiterated the question and the two answers is that I think that in reality this government does not fully realize the hardship it is creating in this country. The CMA people at that time indicated that 140,000 people had lost their jobs. As we know, within the last week the president of the CMA is now saying that it may be 400,000 Canadians who will be out of work as a result of the present recession we are in.

The Prime Minister may feel he can quibble with our words. He may feel he can say that it is technically not a recession, but every economist in Canada would disagree with him. The fact is that for the last four years this country has had a negative real growth on a per capita basis in each of those four years.

Let me not ask you to accept my figures, Mr. Speaker. In the October issue of the internationally well regarded magazine *Euromoney*, it was pointed out that Canada among world countries had an economic performance between 1974 and 1981 ranking number thirtieth. That means we ranked after countries such as Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Iraq, Egypt, Thailand, Cyprus, Japan, Korea, Burma, Paraguay, India, Honduras, Libya, Pakistan, Indonesia, Tunisia, Trinidad and Tobago, The Philippines, Panama, Guatemala, Ecuador, United States of America, Norway, Germany, Austria, Malawi—and then Canada.

I mention this because I think it is time that not only the emperor himself but his ministers, those dwarf ministers that surround him, somehow accepted the plight they have caused in the country. We have a competitively high inflation level in Canada. In fact, the same economic review I have referred to, the October issue of *Euromoney*, says that as far as inflation is concerned we have the nineteenth worst inflation level they record. As far as economic growth in those years is concerned, 1974 to 1981, we ranked forty-eighth.

I am suggesting to the House this evening that, bearing in mind the riches we have in this country, the resources that we have, the agricultural produce and capability we have, our talented people, and the proximity we have to the wealthiest market in the world, it is time the government accepted the challenge to make us number one again among world nations.

● (2215)

This is why I am suggesting, since we have now slipped into a recession, that the Prime Minister should offer some explanation not only to the House but to the people of Canada. He should be willing to tell us why, in terms of personal wealth, for example, we have slipped behind Switzerland which now has personal wealth for every man, woman and child of \$14,240 in United States dollars. He should be willing to tell us why we are behind Luxembourg with \$12,820 in personal earnings; Sweden with \$11,920; Denmark, \$11,900; Germany, \$11,730; Belgium, \$10,890; United States, \$10,820; Norway, \$10,710; Iceland, \$10,490; The Netherlands, \$10,240; France,