

SPORTS

CANADIAN WINNERS OF WORLD AMATEUR BOXING TITLES

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Madam Speaker, two young Canadians just recently won credit for themselves and recognition for our country, but few of us, and indeed few Canadians, are aware of it. In the world of boxing last week at Reno, Nevada, Sean O'Sullivan of Toronto defeated the Russian defending champion Koshkin, to become the world light middleweight amateur boxing champion. In the same tournament, Willi DeWitt of Grande Prairie, Alberta, won the heavyweight gold medal by defeating another defending champion, Aleksandre Yagubkin, also of Russia.

Through a long and painful apprenticeship these young athletes are now world amateur champions in their chosen sport. In most countries this would have been front-page news. In Canada such ranking in most any other sport would have warranted substantial sports-page coverage, pictures and all.

Money alone does not win Olympic or world championship medals. It takes a dedicated athlete, supported and encouraged by an appreciative nation. That is hardly the kind of support accorded these two young winners.

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SMALL BUSINESS

SURVEY BY FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Madam Speaker, a survey by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, an organization which represents a large cross-section of small businesses in the country, indicates that the impact of the recession and the Government's tight money and restraint policy has cut small-business employment by 700,000 or 800,000. A full 51 per cent of respondents to the survey had laid off employees, representative of a majority of small and medium-size businesses in the country. This large portion of the unemployed related to small business indicates the large role this sector could play in an economic recovery.

Small business in Canada is fully up to the job of putting Canada back to work, if it is given the chance it deserves. Some 70 per cent of respondents to the CFIB survey indicate that more consumer spending, lower interest rates at or below the level of inflation, and investment expenditure are essential before any growth in employment can come about. Meanwhile they hear the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) and the Governor of the Bank of Canada talk of restricting stimulus and tightening the screws.

Bill C-139, now before the House, legislates the restrictions to Small Business Development Bonds. Measures are needed to expand employment, not to restrict it. The Government's lack of will and blind callousness are maintaining our high rate of unemployment.

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

INQUIRY RESPECTING MEASURES TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Yesterday in the House the Minister of Finance, in reply to questions regarding the seriousness of the unemployment situation, indicated, as reported in *Hansard*, that we can "expect the unemployment rate to remain high not only next year but for a number of years after that", meaning of course that the Minister's budget will not contain any quick fix to the unemployment situation.

I remind the Prime Minister that this is a question which is seizing the imagination and certainly the compassion of Canadians everywhere, given the long-term nature and the high rate of unemployment in the country, causing serious social problems such as family breakdown, alcoholism, and serious disruptions within our society. As head of the Government, can the Prime Minister tell me what the Government is doing to address this unprecedented situation, unprecedented indeed since the last election?

• (1415)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I am somewhat surprised at the question when it is phrased in terms of what we are doing. We announced in the last budget, and in the last economic statement, that some \$2 million plus would be spent in order to create jobs to train young people, bring them into the work force, and to increase the number of jobs available. We addressed particularly the problem of those people who had exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits. We are in the process of and have concluded with the Provinces the funding of projects to create jobs which will ensure greater employment for the unemployed. I think the question of what we are doing is a rhetorical one.

As far as the concern for facts as foreseen by the Minister, that unemployment will remain high, I think the Minister is avoiding the creation of illusionary remedies, quick fixes, as the Hon. Member says. I think it would be cruel to tell the unemployed that there will suddenly be a quick fix which will reduce the unemployment by half, because that is not likely to happen. That is what the Minister is saying. But certainly we will be addressing the unemployment problem as a very high priority in the next budget.

Mr. McGrath: Madam Speaker, it is even more cruel to leave 2 million Canadians out there without the hope of a job, and that is what I am concerned about. That is the dimension of the problem which the Prime Minister and his Government do not seem to be able to appreciate.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!