

Canadian Trade Policy

ures for the October unemployment rate. Those figures tell us something about the government's failure.

An hon. Member: I wonder who they were sold to first.

Mr. Beatty: My colleague wonders who they were sold to first. If they have been selling Statistics Canada figures to the private sector, that is about all the government has done to stimulate business in Canada.

When we look at the figures I think it is appropriate that we think about the effects of foreign trade on jobs. Foreign trade means the creation of the thousands of new jobs necessary to produce the goods and services and to ensure that our people have the standard of living to which they are entitled. The figures show that seasonally adjusted unemployment is up 31,000. In October the figure was 784,000. Mr. Speaker, that is enough people to fill three cities the size of Kitchener-Waterloo. And that is just the number of unemployed; it does not include the families of the unemployed who suffer equally.

In my home province of Ontario which led the jump in unemployment, we felt the effect of the government's policies when unemployment went up by some 20,000 in Ontario in October. For young people in Ontario at the present time the figure is 10.4 per cent, a whole percentage point above last year. It is tragic when, because of the government's failure to bring in sensible economic policies, one in every ten young people in the labour market in Ontario is without a job.

The government should recognize that without foreign trade, and without aggressively searching out foreign markets, little will be done to create new jobs. And without giving protection to domestic industries and Canadian markets little can be done to protect the jobs of those who have them today.

It is fitting that we should talk about this matter today also, because secrecy is a subject which has often been raised in this House. I am opposed to secrecy in government, and so is my leader. Our party would bring in a freedom of information act and an open administration. The people of Canada would know what the government was doing and how their money was being spent. The history of this government is one of secrecy. The attitude of government ministers is that information belongs to the government and they may or may not choose to let the people have it. When it is inconvenient they will destroy it.

I see the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Guay) laughing about that, Mr. Speaker. I am a little unclear about his responsibilities but he is the most highly paid attendance taker in the history of Canada. In the latest cabinet shuffle he was given the portfolio and the salary but no responsibilities. He has the same old job.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): You are just jealous. You will never get there.

Mr. Beatty: I think a lot of Canadians would be jealous because they cannot have their jobs reclassified to get around the control guidelines.

[Mr. Beatty.]

During last summer I spoke with thousands of people in my constituency, to find out how they viewed the government's economic record and the problems they thought should be addressed by the federal government. One message was brought home to me: people in the business sector of our economy are frightened because they are uncertain about the future. They are tired of the situation where the rules change behind closed doors and where they are not consulted about what is going to take place. They are concerned because they expected the government, if it was anxious to improve trade and anxious to take people into its confidence as it said in the throne speech, to give an indication of how long controls would last and what would happen following their termination. Of course no indication was given. They are concerned because the government has two sets of behaviour, one for itself and one for everyone else. Certainly this is the case with controls and with many other policies the government has followed in the last several years.

Business people in my constituency are suffering from the government's neglect, its neglect of foreign trade and of any protection for our markets from foreign competition. Farmers suffered while beef was brought in from Australia and New Zealand, depressing Canadian prices. This applies to industry after industry when the government dragged its feet at a time when there was need for action. It must be apparent to everyone in the private sector that the government is hostile to business and that means it is hostile to the jobs of several thousand Canadians.

Time and time again business people in my constituency have expressed their concern about having to work in a climate of uncertainty because the government is not taking the people of Canada into its confidence. I do not think my constituency is much different from other rural constituencies. The industries located in the small towns are typical of the industries locate in other small communities in Ontario, dependent on trade and the auto pact, the textile industry or the furniture business. The thing that distresses me is that I see signs now that the jobs of thousands of people are in jeopardy because of the government's inability to take action in the area of trade and to be open, taking the Canadian people into its confidence about its plans for the future.

According to the figures prepared by the Department of Manpower and Immigration last year which were used to allocate money to each constituency for local initiatives programs, my constituency tied for the second lowest unemployment rate in Canada. Within the last year one industry which was considering expansion was forced to build a plant outside the constituency because of the labour shortage. But within a year, Mr. Speaker, the government had changed the picture. It is worth looking at what happened in my constituency because it is similar to what happened to other similar constituencies in Canada in the last couple of months.

In Fergus, GSW was forced to close one plant and 60 jobs were affected. In Palmerston the only industry of any size, Heritage Kitchens, which employed 60 people closed two weeks ago and the people did not have other jobs to go to, and