

persuasions, not of any one political persuasion. In fact, I have no idea of the political persuasion of most of the people with whom I spoke. People were asking a lot of very interesting questions. For example, I spoke at a number of college and high school gatherings. People asked what the Government has done to help young people find employment and pursue educational opportunities because they had not noticed any change for the better. As a matter of fact, there was a good deal of indication that matters had actually worsened in the preceding months.

● (1620)

The number of young people who are unable to find employment, to take training courses at community colleges, or afford university education, is actually growing in my constituency. Many young people now have a sense of hopelessness and feel that there is no point in continuing to look for work day after day because they have received no encouraging news and most of their colleagues have given up. They may find a job for two or three hours now and then in a fast-food outlet, but nothing permanent, and nothing like the kind of job young people should have to begin their careers and the establishment of a home and family.

I travelled to communities in my constituency including Falkland, Westwold, Sorrento, Notch Hill, and Silver Creek, which are in farming and cattle producing areas. The cattlemen and small farmers asked what there was in the last two Budgets which would be of assistance to them. They had not noticed any improvement. I said that there was a program to assist people to get out of agriculture, and there was perhaps some relief for those who were in financial crisis and happened to be doing business with the Farm Credit Corporation. However, there was no help for those doing business with traditional lending institutions.

By and large, Mr. Speaker, the situation in agriculture continues to worsen. The family farm is increasingly becoming a thing of the past. The maintenance of a family ranch, as they are known in my constituency in western Canada, is becoming more difficult with each passing month. The price of cattle continues to fall and the prices of other commodities are falling or remaining stable, while the costs of doing business continue to increase. This makes the future of agriculture extremely problematic and highly questionable as a viable way of life.

I visited a number of communities in the parts of my constituency which rely upon the forest industry. I visited Clearwater, Barrière, the North Shuswap area, Malakwa, and Sicamous. Those communities are harder pressed today than they have ever been. Levels of unemployment are higher than they have ever been. There is a sense of hopelessness. They thought that during the 1984 election campaign the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and others promised that there would be programs for reforestation, assistance in the modernization of mills, and many other programs to assist this hard-pressed forestry sector. All they have now is the threat of countervailing duties or quotas being imposed by the Ameri-

cans, which will result in the closure of a number of sawmills in the interior of British Columbia.

By and large, the forest industry remains in an extremely depressed condition. No one with whom I spoke was aware of any initiative by the Government to alleviate these situations. They were aware of no improvement, only of a number of problems pending in the future. We are now under the real threat of the United States imposing a countervailing duty on our exports to the United States.

I went on to visit a number of tourist operations. These people are waiting for Expo 86 and the bonanza which will occur in their operations, whether they run small marinas, motels, hotels, camp grounds, or fishing camps. These people are simply hoping that things will improve. There is very little concrete evidence to indicate that life for the hospitality industry will become any better than it is today in its present deteriorating situation.

One could talk about mining, but there is no point in it because, in a sense, mining in western Canada has ceased to exist. The future looks anything but bright for those mines which continue to exist, be they in the coal sector or the copper molybdenum sector, which makes up about 70 per cent of mining in British Columbia. There are a number of reasons why one would expect new initiatives by the federal Government to encourage activity, particularly for small mining operations. There is almost a feeling of hopelessness with regard to the mining sector.

One could talk about the small business sector and the small and medium-sized manufacturers. However, the Government has done very little to encourage these sectors. There have, instead, been increased interest rates, increased fuel costs and expensive costs of doing business. Quite frankly, lending institutions are very reluctant to lend money to small businesses, particularly in the service sector, unless they are prepared to put up huge amounts of collateral. Even then, it is very difficult indeed.

I think it is fair to say that the Government has done virtually nothing for the cattle industry, the farming industry, the tourism industry, the fishing industry, young people, the small business sector, small manufacturers, those in the service sector, and native communities hoping to launch economic endeavours. The initiatives taken by the Government are either non-existent or minor.

Before the change of Government there was an outcry about Section 31 of the Income Tax Act which differentiates between a bona fide food producer and a part-time, or hobby, farmer. The assumption during the campaign was that this would be cleared up very quickly. It still has not been cleared up. There has been no indication that this section of the Income Tax Act will be changed to encourage small ranchers or small farmers to expand their businesses.

Let me say in conclusion that, having just completed a major tour of my constituency, I found that people are puzzled, when they hear that the Government has done good things for various groups, by the fact that no sector of the