

*Canadian Economy*

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, this has been a very good debate and I think we owe a vote of thanks to the hon. member for Rimouski (Mr. Allard) for bringing this motion forward. We have been listening for some time to the jibes of the previous speaker in reference to statements made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) about unemployment not being bad. A member across the way referred to 285,000 jobs. Yes, there are that many jobs for 1,300,000 people.

**Mr. Lefebvre:** You have it all wrong.

**Mr. Peters:** It is very hard to sort it out, but if there are that many new jobs, there are still 1,300,000 people looking for work. It is true that the population grows. In very few places is there zero growth in population. The member brought this out.

This has been a very interesting debate because for the first time many members have admitted that there are problems in the country. It was the first time I have heard members on the other side say they have problems. I was interested to hear some members say they have problems with the footwear industry and the textile industry, and that there were problems in Quebec. It was also interesting to hear the Conservatives say that these problems will not be solved by another handout to the corporations, to big business, in the form either of tax concessions or outright grants. This seems odd, because tomorrow in the debate which takes place here in the House we will be hearing the government saying that there is nothing wrong with the economy and that there is no unemployment, these problems do not exist.

The hon. member for Scarborough West (Mr. Martin), as I understood it, said that it was an excellent thing that we should give money away through the Export Development Corporation so as to create jobs in Canada.

**Mr. Martin:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member referred to a comment I made. I did not make any reference whatsoever to the fact that the Export Development Corporation was giving money away which, of course, is a ridiculous comment.

**Mr. Peters:** Then they lend it instead of giving it away. What the hon. member said was that this has created 3,000 manufacturing jobs for the money we have expended in Indonesia, and 1,100 jobs for the money that we lent Guatemala. Then he said that this was considerably more advantageous than the situation in Sudbury where 3,000 people were laid off because of what happened in Indonesia and Guatemala. It was interesting to hear the minister speak in the Standing Committee on Agriculture this morning. I will paraphrase him because he is fairly long winded, and what he says has to be boiled down somehow.

**Mrs. Campagnolo:** There are some others I know who are also long winded.

**Mr. Peters:** Unquestionably there are some others. What he said this morning was that they could not regulate tariffs and they were having great difficulty in Geneva at the tariff conference because there were not only tariffs to deal with.

Although the tariffs were published in the United States, there were so many other kinds of assistance that it was not possible to keep up with those to the same extent you can with simple matters like tariffs. I gathered that that also was the real complaint about the textile industry.

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If we play under certain rules with other countries which do not play under the same rules, we will be at a great disadvantage. We have been fairly stupid in our negotiations with other countries. We must have been fairly stupid in negotiating the pipeline agreement which was recently arrived at with the United States. The Prime Minister now says that we will be able to produce the pipe in Canada if we can compete. If we put that together with what the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) was implying this morning, we come to the conclusion that we are not going to be able to compete and that we will not have jobs in the steel industry, in the textile industry, or even in some segments of the agricultural industry.

It is time we really looked at what is happening. That is why I say we owe a vote of thanks to the hon. member for Rimouski for bringing this motion forward. This is the first time I have heard Liberal backbenchers say that there are problems which should be discussed. I was pleased to hear them say that there is a committee composed of Liberal members studying the problems of the textile industry in the province of Quebec. However, I am sure their votes on Bill C-11 will not indicate that they have any concern or that they see anything wrong in what is happening. I think that is part of the reason we have a major problem in the province of Quebec.

Hon. members to my left—in a philosophical sense I would say they are probably on my right—to a large extent represent rural segments of Quebec. To me they are the only honest representatives of the province of Quebec because they speak for the people of Quebec and their problems. The problems are very simple.

There are really only three or four segments of our population which produce wealth. They are not in the manufacturing industry. They are in the primary industries. They are in the mining industry, which is being hit very hard. It is not being helped by the financial institutions of this country. Financial stability is not being brought to their problems to allow them to raise capital for investment.

Numerous bankruptcies are taking place every month in the forest industry. It is very difficult to maintain a stable market for the primary producer. That is happening in our fisheries as well as in agriculture.

The rest of the people of Canada are parasites on the 500,000 workers in primary industries, and if we do not examine the problems of basic producers and study how to help them, we will have a great deal of difficulty developing our manufacturing industry and all the other industries which have to compete with the rest of the world. We do not appear to be doing very well at all.

The Minister of Labour is here tonight. I understand he received a brief the other day from communications workers—