

Unemployment

their future and has confronted us with the constitution, and not even honestly. The government wants the members of this House to adopt an equalization clause which will enshrine in the law of this country the reality that the federal government can bypass provincial governments when it comes to making fiscal payments. This government is destroying the tradition which has been part of our attempt to develop a stronger Atlantic region and a stronger province of Quebec. This government wants the constitutional right in perpetuity to ignore those provinces when it comes to equalization payments. I wonder how the members from Newfoundland and some of the 20 members holding seats in the other Atlantic provinces feel about that. I wonder how the 74 who represent the province of Quebec feel. I wonder how the people of Quebec would feel if they really knew what was happening.

This government tells us about mobility rights. There are two important groups that we should keep in mind when we talk about mobility rights. The first group involves secretaries who live in eight of the ten provinces, in Yukon and the Northwest Territories. They still cannot work for the Department of External Affairs. Then there are the pilots who want to fly airplanes for the Department of Transport. They cannot obtain a job unless they live in the province of Quebec. This government in its day-to-day behaviour is the single largest employer which puts mobility problems in the way of Canadians who want to work in different parts of the country. It also wants a Constitution which enshrines the right of the government to deny the provision of social services to any Canadian who moves across provincial boundaries. This government threatens disadvantaged Canadians by telling them that if they move from province to province they run the risk of not being able to receive health care, family allowances or pensions, or of not receiving a decent education. It wants to deny the provision of social services to the people who need it most.

As this debate continues today I hope that members in the House will listen closely and underline those one million unemployed Canadians who need our help. Maybe after today we will see the kind of cabinet change needed to start on the road to being able to help those people.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have read the motion put forward by the official opposition, which is as follows:

That this House expresses its sorrow and sympathy for the more than one million Canadians who are unable to find work and who, with their families, face an uncertain future, and urges the Prime Minister to endorse this sentiment by shuffling his Cabinet.

Mr. Knowles: Not many here to shuffle today.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, if that is the answer, then God help us! I want to read to the House something said by a young woman in Toronto. It is an excerpt from the "Metropolitan Social Planning Council Study—Layoffs". She says:

My Dad is unemployed
And I hate it
It isn't his fault he hasn't a job
He tries hard enough
His company had to let somebody off

Guess who got picked?
I hate his employers for what they did
For the quarrels and tension
But especially for making my Dad feel
So useless, unwanted, unneeded
I hate them for it.

Mr. Speaker, this little girl expresses a sentiment far closer to the truth than an expression of sorrow and sympathy and a shuffle of the cabinet would. Surely that kind of situation justifies more than the idle nonsense expressed in this motion. Even if the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) were to accept this motion and shuffle his cabinet, we would still have the same people. It would not change the cabinet's direction or create a plan or economic strategy. It would not create any kind of vision for the development of this country on behalf of Canadians. Therefore, what would be the use of shuffling the cabinet? What is required is a dramatic change in the attitude of the government toward the needs of the people of Canada and the way in which the natural strengths of this country can and should be used in the interests of all Canadians.

That young 13-year-old girl who says that she hates the people who took the action which created unemployment for her family, created hardship, tension and quarrels, does not need sympathy. She does not need an expression of sorrow. What she and countless other young people who see exactly the same circumstances affecting their families in many communities right across this country need is a plan of action, not an expression of sympathy and sorrow. I want to suggest that there could be no less appropriate motion than the one we have before us.

Earlier today I was asking the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) about an approval given by FIRA which will allow Rockwell to acquire Wescom Canada in Georgetown, and therefore give Rockwell control over the lives of yet another group of employees. Rockwell's record in this country is abysmal. This is the company which from 1975 through 1980 closed down five plants in five different communities in the country. In addition to that, it reduced the work force in two other plants from a combined total of approximately 1,500 to 260. This is a company which says in its application to FIRA that there will be significant benefit, including increased employment, if it is allowed to take over yet another small company. The Minister of Finance told me that he would rather pass that question over to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray). I cannot blame him; he must be embarrassed. I could see the embarrassment on his face. I could see in his eye the horror as he realized that he had approved something in cabinet which is inexcusable. The minister sat there while this measure was approved, and today he did not even remember it because he did not pay sufficient attention to what was before cabinet at the time. He did say he would go out and try to find the detail for me, which at this point is simply an explanation of something which can hardly be explained. It would certainly be an excuse for taking an inexcusable action.