

lack of confidence. That lack of confidence is still there. I do not call that small change, although the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wiltson) might.

The former Minister of the Environment resigned after spending thousands of tax dollars on a questionable trip to Europe. Is that a small thing? A Minister of Fisheries is forced to resign over a tuna scandal not, Sir, because you let the tuna go on the shelves but because you disagreed with the Prime Minister as to who took them off the shelves.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would hope that in debate, which must be vigorous and, of course, very far ranging, Hon. Members might leave the Speaker out of the midst of the controversy because, I must assure all Hon. Members, there are some things your Speaker would just as soon put behind him.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I will take that point, Mr. Speaker, because the House decided two nights ago what it thought about that particular dispute, and decided firmly in your favour.

So much for the small things, so called. What about the big things such as the economy, trade, national reconciliation and tax reform?

Let us look at the economy. Where are we on the deficit? Deficit reduction was going to be a major thrust of this Government. In his last Budget the Minister of Finance projected that his big accomplishment would be to reduce the deficit this year to \$29.5 billion. We told him that his projections were wrong. We told him that his assumptions on oil prices and interest rates were way off. I think most commentators in the country would recognize that, but the Minister did not admit it because the number was put there for political and cosmetic reasons, to keep big business happy and to get an initial approval on that particular Budget from big business. Now, just seven months later, the Minister has a new projection which is \$2.5 billion higher and we are back up to \$32 billion. How is that for targeting?

Despite massive intervention in foreign markets our dollar has dropped during the course of this Government from 77 cents U.S. to somewhere between 71 and 72 cents U.S.

The economic recovery has been uneven. It has centered mainly in urban Ontario and urban Quebec. Western Canada is in recession. Atlantic Canada has been cut adrift. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) says: "Don't complain. You are better off than Bangladesh". That is one of the most insensitive comments ever heard in this country, even from that Minister. All the people of Atlantic Canada want is equality of opportunity with the rest of Canada, not with the Third World.

In its Throne Speech, the Government is proposing an Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, adding more levels of bureaucracy when what Atlantic Canadians want, and what they need, is more jobs.

The Address—Mr. John Turner

[*Translation*]

The Prime Minister likes to brag about the number of jobs he has created, but for thousands of Canadian men and women the sad truth is that there has been a net loss of almost 17,000 jobs since January this year, and those jobless Canadians wish the Prime Minister would stop uttering misleading statements about previous administrations and would implement policies and programs designed to guarantee they will be able to rejoin the labour force.

[*English*]

Let us look at another big thing, trade. Free trade with the United States was the major economic thrust of the Government. It has been botched and bungled right from the beginning in a very big way. Negotiations have been ill-timed, ill-managed and ill-prepared. Instead of quiet effective diplomacy in pursuit of concrete, clear objectives, the Government has set us on a hyped-up comprehensive bilateral treaty negotiation with the United States without any debate in this House of Commons and with inadequate consultation with our provinces.

It is now clear that the Prime Minister launched these talks in that cosmetic joint declaration with the President of the United States in Quebec City without understanding either the initiative or Canada. He is now trying to extricate himself by blaming the Americans, but Canadians are seeing the truth. They know that the Prime Minister did not know what he was doing when he began this whole affair. Now the words "free trade", those ringing words in the joint declaration, have become, to use the words of the Throne Speech "the pursuit of a mutually advantageous trade agreement with the United States". The Government is bailing out, Mr. Speaker. I thought we were going to stop bailing, and fix the boat. Was that not what Dalton said?

Where does that leave us? We are unlikely, in my view, to achieve an agreement with the United States which adequately protects Canadian interests. Equally, to walk away from these negotiations now may produce countervailing measures against us. Goodness knows, we are getting countervailing action unilaterally from the United States even during the course of the negotiations. What has happened is that the Prime Minister has painted Canada into a corner. Let us take yesterday. Through the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney) we knuckled under on the lumber issue. We admitted the American case on stumpage. We submitted the offer during the deliberations of the American tribunal which is going to decide in a few days. We conceded the case. We have now given the administrators south of the border the evidence to decide the way they want to decide. All I can say to the Prime Minister is, what a negotiator! He boasted in Saskatoon, when the new Minister received her portfolio: "Pat Carney has the ball now. Hold on to your hats". Despite that unhappy metaphor, the Minister fumbled on our two-yard line, that is what she did.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!