

expensive. He told me that it hurts him to do that, but he has to survive as well. His rent is going up. The cost of wrapping material has almost doubled over the last two and a half years and, of course, the wholesale price of beef has gone up.

Then I talked to a woman on unemployment insurance. She receives \$81 per week unemployment insurance, or something like \$330 per month. She has been listening to the debate and had heard Liberals say that everything was indexed. As far as she was concerned, any indexing was a sham. She said there was no way that it had risen along with the cost of living increase. She is making very high payments on oil and on hydro, since the previous summer while waiting for her unemployment insurance payments to come through she fell behind in meeting her payments. The Lord help the person who begins to fall behind in this society!

Her son is also out of work. She pointed to the fact that there were many families who have traditionally depended upon more than one wage earner, yet all of them are now out of work. She referred to the cynical statement of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) with regard to how people had to rearrange their priorities. She said that the only way you can do any rearranging is to cut down on how much you eat and skip buying clothes altogether.

The general impression I got from talking to these sorts of people, Mr. Speaker, was that they were uncertain and anxious. They were even living in fear of the future. They wanted to know where their problems were going to end. It is just not good enough for the Liberals to say that the members on this side of the House are spreading doom and gloom, because they themselves have already done that. The people already sense what we on this side of the House have been documenting for the last day and a half; they sense the frightening fact that there is no one in control.

All of the people I talked to felt the effects of high interest rates and the increased cost of living, but they are also able to point to other people who suffer even more from these effects. They were concerned that those least able to look after themselves were getting left behind. They do not want to go back to a dog eat dog society.

An hon. Member: The Liberals just do not care.

Mr. Manly: They have a sense that the Liberals are constantly dragging in the constitution in order to evade the real problems that confront the nation, that the constitution is only a smokescreen. If the constitution is only a smokescreen, then the people of Canada are beginning to see through it. Or, rather, the horrifying reality behind that smokescreen is beginning to appear.

I say to the members of this House that the unemployed woodworker on Vancouver Island has a great deal more in common with unemployed auto workers in Windsor than with any of the fat cats who talk about western separatism. The homemaker in British Columbia faces the same problems and has the same struggle to make ends meet as any homemaker in the maritimes.

Economic Conditions

Therefore, along with other members of my party I urge the government to take this crisis seriously and make themselves aware of the way it affects ordinary Canadians. We ask them to bring in a new budget in January which will provide some real relief and get the economy of Canada moving again. We ask them to bring in a fair prices commission with the power to roll back unfair price increases, and, finally, Mr. Speaker, we ask them to get working now on an industrial strategy which will put Canadians back to work, which will bring together the resources of this country and the skills of the people of this country, and thus create an economy which will be fit for the people of this country.

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, this debate now seems to be drawing to a close since the official opposition is not rising any longer to participate.

Mr. Forrestall: We are going to have the last word.

Miss Jewett: They have certainly taken a breather during the last two or three speeches of the New Democratic Party, but it is quite appropriate because it was the New Democratic Party which asked that this emergency debate take place, and it has been the New Democratic Party over the past several years that has most consistently addressed the economic problems that beset this country.

After the present Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) became leader, immediately the task was set for the whole party—not just the few in the top rank of the party, but the rank and file of the party—to address the economic problems facing this country. For three and a half, almost four years, that was done both in convention of the party as well as in the caucus of the party. It was done provincially as well as federally.

One of the what I may call satisfying and exciting things about being a member of this party is that the kind of attack, the kind of philosophy and approach which is taken to all problems, but specifically, for our purposes at the moment, to economic problems, is consistent. As a British Columbian I find that the general approach of the New Democratic Party in British Columbia to economic issues of the day is almost identical to that of the federal party. I suggest you will find this to be so in all of the provincial parties as well as in the grassroots of the party.

I believe that one of the reasons the Liberals and the Progressive Conservatives have not evolved over the past several years a coherent economic policy or industrial strategy, a coherent policy for bringing women, for example, into the work force at the same level of wage as men, is that they do not sufficiently encourage, it seems to me, any policy discussion in conferences or conventions where the grassroots and the interested academics and others can participate and help shape policy.

● (1830)

As I say, it began with the industrial strategy policy of this party about four years ago, as a result of which it has been