

• (1805)

It seems to me that in the last three years there has not just been a growth of employment in Metropolitan Toronto and within 160 kilometres of Metropolitan Toronto, and in Ontario, there has been growth of employment across the country. It is my impression that 46 per cent of the new jobs have been created in Ontario, but after all, Ontario has approximately 40 per cent of the total labour force.

It is my impression as well that about 54 per cent of all the jobs have been created elsewhere across the country. In the last three years, for instance, it is my impression that more jobs have been created in Atlantic Canada than had been created in the previous six years. It is my impression that in the last year alone, three times as many jobs were created in your Province of Quebec, Madam Speaker, as was created in the past five years in Quebec. It is my impression as well that right now the unemployment rate across this country is lower in all provinces than it was at the time the Government took office some three years ago.

I am interested in the fact that in August, the Statistics Canada "help wanted" index reached its highest level ever. I understand that "help wanted" advertising in Atlantic Canada is up some 72 per cent, to its highest level in 20 years. In Quebec it is up some 85 per cent, and in Ontario it is up 154 per cent. In the prairie region, it is up 51 per cent and it is up 83 per cent in British Columbia.

I believe those figures reflect the fact that employment has not just been created within an area around Metropolitan Toronto, but right across this country.

That impression has been reinforced by a recent article in *The Globe and Mail*. I want to quote briefly from it:

In June, 1984, opposition leader, Brian Mulroney said that "tens of thousands" of jobs would be created soon after the election of a Conservative government. He was roundly criticized in the media for this extravagant prediction and told to be more realistic. The media were wrong.

In fact, we have seen that they were wrong because almost one million jobs have been created in those three years. *The Globe and Mail* went on to say:

The Conservatives would get all the blame if the economy were lagging, but are reaping little of the credit as Canada leads the industrialized world in economic growth. This is unfair, because federal policies on deregulation, deficit control, privatization, foreign investment, tax reform and free trade are very much part of the environment in which jobs are appearing and incomes are rising.

My impression has been reinforced by this article in *The Globe and Mail*. My impression is that job creation in Canada has not only been in Metropolitan Toronto and nearby, and in Ontario, but right across the country. If I am wrong—and I do not believe I am—I hope the Parliamentary Secretary will tell me so tonight.

Mr. Benno Friesen Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration: Madam Speaker, first, I am happy to know that the Hon. Member has raised that question on behalf of his constituents. I can understand why his

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constituents would be confused by the statistics given by the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent), the Leader of the New Democratic Party, when he said that 95 per cent of the jobs that were created were within a 160 kilometre radius of Toronto.

I recall very vividly, just after the last Budget, the same Member for Oshawa being interviewed on television. He said that he had just received information regarding companies that had paid income tax and found out just before the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) had tabled his Budget that last year 60,000 companies had not paid tax.

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Naturally, the first impression would be that that is shocking. What he did not say was that most of those companies had not made money last year. In fact, probably a lot of them had lost money last year, and obviously, if one does not make money or one loses money, one does not pay tax. The Hon. Member for Oshawa overlooked that piece of information when he gave us those statistics.

The same holds true in the statistics he gave with respect to the improved employment picture in Canada. It is just totally wrong to say that 95 per cent of the jobs were created in and around Oshawa.

The Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway), who just asked the question, was absolutely right in the perspective he gave. There have been, since this Government was elected, 907,000 jobs created in Canada. It would be ludicrous to say that 95 per cent of those 900,000 jobs would be in and around Oshawa. That just makes no sense at all. It is true that many of those jobs were created in Ontario. We are happy for the Ontarians who have got those jobs and we want to make sure the rest of Canada benefits in the same way. However, Ontario also has 38 per cent of the labour force as of September 1984. Therefore, just to see a larger number of workers employed does not mean there has been a statistical growth in the way the Hon. Member for Oshawa indicated.

Metropolitan Toronto has accounted for 15 per cent of all the jobs created in the last three years, from August 1984 to 1987. When this Government was elected, the gainsayers all said that was not going to happen. Actually, we can be very proud of what has happened. I spoke to a Member from Calgary the other day. That Member said that all the drilling rigs will probably be employed this winter because the Government has removed the PGRT and has provided incentive in the oil industry.

There have been 35,000 jobs created in Atlantic Canada, 123,000 jobs in Quebec, 162,000 jobs in Ontario, 15,000 jobs in the Prairies and 22,000 jobs in British Columbia. I think that while we want to see more jobs created in the regions, we can be very proud of what has already been done.

With the continued impetus to the economy given by the incentives programs, both in western Canada and in the