

The Address—Mr. Rodriguez

bridge. In the past, the children of the employees of those companies looked for jobs within the company. Since those companies have been facing some difficulty, those jobs have not been available for the students. Those students need some employment in order to go to post-secondary institutions.

I was hurt and indeed angry that the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) has eliminated Summer Canada. It was a direct job-creation program for the summer so that students could use their creativity and energy at jobs in areas where there is only one industry. That was very important for the students, because without that employment they either have to leave the area and get the jobs which Mr. Bulloch might have, paying less than minimum wage or close to it, and they will not be able to save for their education costs, or they end up borrowing from OSAP. They have to borrow with the government being the surety on those loans. Of course, when they graduate there is no chance of a job, and then the government sends out its collectors to start collecting the money the students owe.

● (1540)

I find that the elimination of Summer Canada was really a low blow, not maybe to Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Winnipeg, Brampton—where Brampton Billy lives—but to areas that are single industry areas, for instance, to northern Ontario, eastern Canada, Newfoundland, northern parts of British Columbia and to the Prairie provinces. This Government has been cheap, chintzy, and chiselling.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is one minute left. The Hon. Member for Brampton-Georgetown (Mr. McDermid).

Mr. McDermid: I will make my question and comment short, Mr. Speaker. I thought I would never say I wanted to see the former member for Nickel Belt back in this House, but after the speech the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt made today I wish she were back.

Mr. Benjamin: Would you like to know where we wish you were?

Mr. McDermid: The Hon. Member has been very critical of the committee that has been established by this Government. It has labour representation, and has been supported by the Canadian Federation of Labour. The committee chose its own chairman. I was surprised the Hon. Member did not mention in his speech when he criticized the committee that one of the members was from the Canadian Federation of Labour and does support it.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, I suppose it is always good for this Government to have its tokenism. The trade union movement in this country represents some 38 per cent of the workers.

Mr. McDermid: Fifty-five per cent voted for the Tories.

Mr. Rodriguez: As I said 38 per cent of the workers in this country is unionized. How much of that committee is made up

of trade unionists—how many? Two out of how many? It is two out of 20, Mr. Speaker. Who is the Hon. Member kidding? We will have a made-in-Chatham proposal.

Mr. McDermid: Nonsense.

Mr. Rodriguez: Yes, nonsense—the Hon. Member—

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The time allocated for questions and comments has expired and we shall continue the debate with the Hon. Member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys (Mr. MacLellan).

[English]

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to speak during the Throne Speech debate. I would like to thank my constituents for re-electing me to this House. I can assure them I will do everything I possibly can to act in their best interests.

I would not like to speak so much about the document itself, because the Speech from the Throne is very vague on any kind of specifics. It seems the Throne Speech gave a more or less two-part scenario. First, we had the speech itself on Monday afternoon, November 5, which appeared to be a preamble for the second document, the economic and fiscal statement which was brought down November 8. It seems in the latter document we are getting a very good idea of what the Government is thinking and what its attitude is toward the Canadian people.

The Government is certainly saying at the present time that reducing the deficit is first and foremost in the Government's thinking. I do not disagree that reducing the deficit is extremely important. But, while we have to look at the economic health of the country, we cannot completely forget about the social fibre and the fibre of the Canadian people. I think in that regard we must look at what this means to low income and unemployed Canadians.

The Government has reduced the industrial and regional development plan by \$175 million, and other industrial incentive programs by \$25 million. This is an extremely important indication of exactly what the Government is doing. The Government seems to be an elitist government, Mr. Speaker.

As I have mentioned, reducing the deficit is important, but there are many Canadians who cannot continue in the way we expect Canadians to be able to live if this Government's policies are followed to the letter. The Government says it wants to increase employment through private sector and public job opportunities. In areas such as mine, there is no private sector, and the public sector has reduced its employment level by over 5,000 jobs in the last 10 years. What are we going to do, are we going to talk about engines for growth or what our objectives are for five years hence? What is going to happen to those people who do not have jobs now, this year, next year, let alone in five years time? There has to be concern for the individual. That is extremely important.