

February, 1980, all of which had been slashed by his administration.

I represent the riding in Newfoundland of Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe and I am proud to represent that riding. I am proud of the people and the province that I come from. I say with my head high and my chest out that in Newfoundland we have experienced, perhaps more than most Canadians, many of the hardships and social disruptions that result every time that an economy, whether it be on a national, international or western world basis, is shaken. I know the effects of high unemployment and I know the effects of an economy that is not stable.

I wanted to say in my first words tonight that I was totally amazed, astonished, perhaps even saddened, that the party in the corner which my colleague calls the pink rump, continues to find great joy—perhaps even pleasure, judging by the smiling faces that are now exhibited—whenever Canadians feel the effects of high unemployment or a disrupted economy.

Why do they find pleasure in that, Mr. Speaker? It is because that is the party which has continued to assume that Canadian people are stupid. Government has a responsibility which is not to be taken lightly. That is the party that is convinced that the way to be elected is to hold out the proverbial carrot to the Canadian people. That is the party that spends its time trying to figure out what it thinks Canadians want to hear instead of using its energies and intelligence, little as it is, to find solutions to complex and real problems.

An hon. Member: The Liberals have done a great job for Newfoundland over the last few years.

Mr. Tobin: Yes, we have done a great job for Newfoundland and Newfoundlanders have recognized it. The only NDP member we had—good man that he is, good friend that he is—has gone back to practice his original profession and I am proud to say that I had a little something to do with that!

My blood boils, Mr. Speaker. I have been here nearly two years as a Member of Parliament and I spent a couple of years as an executive assistant in Newfoundland, so I have learned just a little—and I have a lot more to learn—about the political process. One thing that I have learned is that people in this country are tired—

An hon. Member: Of Liberals.

Mr. Tobin: —of pipedreams. They are tired of politicians who are prepared to raise unrealistic expectations if there is a chance of political benefit. They are tired of that brand of simplistic solution.

The other night I had the irritation, I suppose, of watching the finance critic for the NDP speak on CBC on the program "This Week in Parliament". I sat and listened, and it was just like today. I think it lasted ten minutes. The hon. member spent ten minutes telling me, as an interested Canadian, "There is another way, ladies and gentlemen. We can all be living on the edge of a bowl of cherries. There is no problem. We have the solutions." My goodness, he had me captivated! I

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was almost ready—but God forbid I should even admit it—to run across to that side of the House. I was excited. However, before I knew what was happening, the program was finished, and the last words I heard echoing against the walls were, "Was there another way?" I never heard it. What is the other way? For God's sake, tell us! It is the party of empty rhetoric.

• (2110)

Let me tell hon. members about the ways this government has provided jobs. Let me tell hon. members to listen and learn. In my own province of Newfoundland this year, we had a very bad fishery. No doubt, hon. members opposite would tell us that the government members were out chasing away the fish.

An hon. Member: There you go!

Mr. Tobin: The people of Canada are intelligent enough, hon. members might be surprised to know, that they can recognize there could be a bad fishery from time to time. How did this government respond? Representatives of the fisheries union of Newfoundland—

An hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: —the cabinet representative from Newfoundland—

An hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: —and Members of Parliament from Newfoundland and interested fishermen from Newfoundland gathered in Ottawa. There was no program to offer in immediate response. There was none on the books. However, the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy), the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. LeBlanc), the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Rompkey) and the president of the fishermen's union in Newfoundland gathered together. We designed a program with \$1 million in funds, and we put thousands of fishermen back to work. We helped them get their UIC benefits. That is not empty rhetoric; that is action.

Let me tell hon. members about the program which the party of the hon. member for Halifax West cancelled a short while after it formed the government. The Canada community development program is a highly targetable, cash-based program directed toward the creation of jobs in areas where high unemployment, slow economic growth and low levels of business activity are continuing problems. We have examples throughout Atlantic Canada, including my own province, of that kind of situation.

Last year, in 1981, \$110 million which would have otherwise been cancelled by the Conservative party, was allocated to these programs. In this country, it created 20,000 jobs. This year that program, beginning now, has more than 8,000 applications, and the jobs this year will exceed, if not equal, those created by last year's program.

I suppose that when one talks in numbers, considering the amount of money and jobs, it is sometimes very difficult for