

member of that district to sit on the backbenches of the party across the way.

An hon. Member: And with good reason.

Mr. Hawkes: If one wants to be unemployed, that is good reason to vote for the Liberals; if one wants jobs or a chance to participate, one should consider voting somewhat differently. I wonder if the people of London West who may be having trouble selling their houses or finding jobs realize that in that area today there are 13,000 fewer wage earners. There are 13,000 fewer people who have incomes to spend in that community today. I wonder if the people of London West remember that one year ago there were 10,000 persons unemployed, far too many. In the month of March there were 14,000 people looking for work. I bet there is one more person on every block or in every apartment building looking for work than there was a year ago.

Not only have those people lost the opportunity for earning an income, they have lost the opportunity to develop a sense of self-worth which comes from being a productive member of society. They have lost the opportunity to develop friendships in the work place. The tragedy is not only economic; it affects all aspects of our lives.

Could these effects have been predicted? I bring to the attention of the House one little example which people might remember because it occurred not long ago. The Minister of Finance, aided and abetted by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde), brought down a budget last October 28 and gave us the National Energy Program. Those of us from the province of Alberta who were sitting in the House were quick to bring to the attention of the government, in question period and on every possible occasion, the fact that the program would produce greater numbers of unemployed people in Alberta who work within the oil industry and also create a problem for Canadian industry. We said to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources that it would not happen right away, that next spring was the time.

March is the first month for which I have statistics. In the first month of Spring the unemployment rate in the province of Alberta went up 14 per cent. At the same time the Canadian economy lost 10,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector. Are the effects of a bad budget and of a bad energy program predictable? We predicted those effects in late October, early November, and today they are a reality. Unemployment in producing provinces is up 14 per cent; 10,000 jobs have been lost in manufacturing. That was predictable last October because Liberal backbenchers chose to support a cabinet which is more concerned with political gain than with economic reality and jobs for people.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hawkes: I should like to take a minute to refer back to the headline of May 23, 1979 entitled, "Joe Sees Growth, Jobs and Hope". Let me contrast the job side of our nine months in office with the 12 months of the government opposite. During

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our nine months in office, even though women have a tough time in Canada getting jobs, an average of 23,000 women per month obtained jobs. In the last 12 months the average is down to 15,000. Our record on behalf of the women of the country, in terms of helping them obtain jobs, was 50 per cent better than the record of the present Liberal cabinet.

As for those young people who are facing a 14.1 per cent unemployment rate, our average increase was 6,000 young people per month who obtained jobs; under the present Liberal cabinet the figure is 2,400. Our record was 150 per cent better than the present Liberal cabinet in terms of creating an economic climate which produced jobs for our young people.

Then there is a special group, those who find themselves unemployed at 55 years of age or over, a forgotten minority in our society. In our nine months in office, 3,000 more people in that category per month obtained jobs. Under the present Liberal cabinet the figure is down to 833 people. Our record for people 55 years of age and over was 300 per cent better than the record of the government.

Looking at the available statistical data for the goods-producing sector of our society, which includes agriculture, manufacturing and construction, our record was 13,000 jobs per month, whereas the record of the Liberal cabinet is 4,000. Our record was 300 per cent better in the goods-producing sector that produces the real wealth, which is the first step toward a decent sharing program. It is awfully easy to share nothing equally. It is an easy equation; everyone gets nothing. Politically it is more difficult to talk about reality and the need to create real wealth before it can be shared.

In terms of tax spending on the creation of public sector employment, under our regime 667 jobs per month; under this cabinet, 4,750. There was 700 per cent more spending on public sector jobs than there was under our government. We created jobs in the goods-producing sector; that is, manufacturing, construction and agriculture. The government is creating job programs through tax spending. Under our government there were fewer taxpayers but more tax spending. The amount of taxes goes up for those who do work and the results in our society in the long term are not positive.

● (1530)

If you look, Mr. Speaker, at the figures for the regions of our country, you will see that the region which has been in the most trouble under this government in terms of job creation is the Atlantic region. Under our Conservative government there was a 3,444 increase per month in jobs in the Atlantic region. Under the present government the figure is 1,250. Our record was 300 per cent better. Why is this? It is simply because the people had a sense of confidence that they had finally elected a government which understood that Canadians want jobs. They want an economy that grows at a rate where jobs are created so that they can earn a decent income, develop a sense of self-worth and build the kinds of friendships that tend to go along with the work place.

In the face of nine months of demonstration, this government has taken us far away from concern for those people and