

### *Employment Programs*

instance, there were 529,000 family units in which an unemployed person was to be found, in 318,000 of those units some one, two or three other members of the family were at work at the same time. This represents perhaps a change in the nature of the demand for work in our society, and it also represents some significant difference in the way in which that employment or unemployment burden falls upon the people who are involved.

There is no doubt that in dealing with the economic situation generally we must continue to do what we have been doing in terms of watching the economy very closely, in terms, as of the last 12 or 13 months or so, of turning around this situation very dramatically by something like \$2 billion in total additional infusion of capital into the economy.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Comeau:** Do you think you're in the circus?

**Mr. Lang:** Hon. members opposite laugh. I know that the hon. member for South Western Nova (Mr. Comeau) has conceded he knows nothing about the subject, and has no experts to advise him, but I believe hon. members opposite generally share that view. They seem to ignore—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

• (4:40 p.m.)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please. The Chair feels that hon. members should allow the minister to complete his remarks and also permit other hon. members to listen. The Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Lang).

**Mr. Lang:** It is very surprising, Mr. Speaker, to find that hon. members opposite still do not choose to recognize the important effect upon the economy of several billions of dollars of turnaround in fiscal and monetary policies in the course of the last 13 months or so. The hon. member for South Western Nova admitted his inability to offer very many positive suggestions to solve the problem. He says he cannot because of his lack of resources but of course this will not stop him or his colleagues from proffering elaborate criticisms of whatever is done in the next several weeks when a further statement will reveal what this government considers should be done in an attempt to continue to move in a responsible way toward growth in the economy.

We must maintain in our sights the responsible development of policy in order that the growth of this country and the attitude toward growth be established for the future. It would not solve anything to simply turn back to those nearly disastrous days of spending without regard to the impact upon inflation. This is not in the long-term interest of the country and does not reflect the attitude of those people who must make the decisions. We must re-establish a belief in the responsibility of government, not seeking short-term political ends but seeking to do those things which are economically sound. In the development of this country, we must not only think of today or the political consequences which hon.

[Mr. Lang.]

members opposite are so concerned about, but we must think of the long-term benefit.

We must continue to do better than some of our neighbours and some of those economies which influence us very greatly. We can and will create an atmosphere for growth in this country, notwithstanding the gloom and doom so popular among hon. members opposite which attempts to inhibit the progress of those who make the decisions. I say to them that this is a time to have confidence in this country, confidence in those who make the decisions for the investment that will provide jobs for the great numbers entering the labour force. This is a country of which we can all be proud and of which most Canadians are proud; it is a country which will grow and develop and these short-run problems will be dealt with by programs which are right for the short term and also for the future of this country.

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I think we have all been interested and entertained when listening to the Alice in Wonderland speech just delivered by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Lang). When listening to him one would think that we were living in a country where the economy is booming, where the government had great foresight and was conducting the affairs of the country in a first class manner. Instead, we are, in fact, living in a country where unemployment today stands at 7.8 per cent of the work force, where inflation has been rising during the last three months at an annual rate of 7.2 per cent, where taxes are the highest ever known in this country, where the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has described the economy as being at a virtual standstill, and where the government is obviously at a complete loss to know where it is going or how to deal with the problems facing us.

As we all remember, at the beginning of the year the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) and other ministers advised us that unemployment had turned the corner and that inflation was licked. Obviously, these ministers have no idea where they are going, where they have come from or what they ought to do next.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hees:** The minister made one statement with which I completely agree and I am sure we all would, so I jotted it down. He said, "The government must create confidence to stimulate the private sector." Of course, that is what the government must do, Mr. Speaker, but in the next few minutes I intend to show that the policies followed by this government have been doing exactly the reverse.

The principal reason that the economy of this country has not been expanding fast enough to come anywhere close to absorbing our rapidly increased work force is a lack of confidence in the future of the economy in the minds of the businessmen of Canada. This lack of confidence has caused them to put off the decisions which they otherwise would have made to expand their opera-