

The Budget—Mr. Crosbie

together by allowing for diversity, by allowing for conciliation and discussion and compromise. That is the only way this can be treated if we do not want Quebec separating, or other parts of this country getting fed up and attempting the same thing. The Prime Minister cannot do that. We have seen it time and time again, and this is the latest illustration of that situation. There cannot be a serious approach to national unity while this is allowed to continue.

It is a political approach that this government has taken. They know in six months' time the provinces are going to be blamed when taxes go back up again. How are the people of Newfoundland going to feel about the Newfoundland government when in October, as winter comes on, the sales tax goes back up from 8 to 11 per cent? The same thing will happen here in Ontario, or in nine months time in Saskatchewan and in British Columbia. All that odium is going to go on the provincial governments, not on the government that caused the whole situation with its band-aid approach, its cheap political approach. Politics are interfering with everything. Even Canadian national unity is only a matter of attempting political gain for the government opposite. What a way to approach trying to save our country. It is enough to upset one.

This budget, Mr. Speaker—I will leave that topic now. I wish I had a couple of hours to cover the ground properly.

Unemployment. Here we are in Canada—raging unemployment—16.5 per cent in Newfoundland, and 19.4 per cent is the actual rate down there. Even in mighty Ontario, St. Catharines, it is 13.2 per cent; Sudbury, 13 per cent; Kitchener, 10.8 per cent; Windsor, 11.2 per cent. I am starting to feel sorry for the mainlanders, Mr. Speaker. Central Canada, the industrial heartland of Canada, with these tremendous rates of unemployment—where is Canada headed with her manufacturing industry operating at 80 per cent capacity? The Science Council of Canada says we are approaching deindustrialization. Negotiations are going on over at Geneva and the minister is unable to answer properly any questions we ask about what is happening.

Canadian industry is on the threshold of hari-kari—the hari-kari being carried out by this government. We are used to unemployment in Newfoundland but they are not used to it in Ontario. My heart bleeds for them. St. John's, Newfoundland, 15.8 per cent urban unemployment; Chicoutimi, 20.4 per cent. There are no new steps taken in the budget to relieve unemployment. It is the opposite. Because of the hash of our economic affairs they have made, the Canadian dollar is trembling. It is like a floating kidney. The floating Canadian dollar does not show health, Mr. Speaker. It shows there is something wrong. When your kidney starts to float around it shows there is something wrong with your health, and when the Canadian dollar starts floating around it shows there is something wrong with our economic health. It shows how the people in the rest of the world regard us. They know we are sick.

Poor Jack Horner! "Loose lips" and "Flip lips"! When the two of them get through with the dollar we will be lucky if there is anything left of it.

[Mr. Crosbie.]

What is there for the unemployed, the over one million? I mentioned the farce last night that we had at the first ministers' con-job conference. What has been done in Newfoundland? We have Canada Works down in Newfoundland and they pay the lowest wages anywhere in Canada in Newfoundland on the Canada Works projects—a maximum of \$115 per week. The unemployed in Newfoundland were shown a vision that Gull Island was going to start this year and they were going to get 11,000 jobs. They learned later on that it was just another study.

There was a suggestion a year ago that we should have a project where 400 loggers would be employed for three years clearing the reservoir for the lower Churchill hydro development—to provide work for 400 men for three years. There are a lot of unemployed loggers there. The federal government makes a niggardly offer after a year that it will pay \$10,000 per job. They know the project will cost \$25,000,000 and will result in lasting value because the reservoir must be cleared, even though we do not know for sure exactly when the project is going to go ahead. So the federal government is not assisting there.

We have an oil refinery at Come-By-Chance in my district. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) could care less. He has not done a thing. He has not flicked a toe or finger to get that Come-By-Chance oil refinery going again to help our unemployed.

The Minister of DREE—I got a fatuous silly letter from him yesterday about the National Sea Products Fish Plant proposal in Arnold's Cove, Placentia Bay, in the area of the worst unemployment down there. They applied last October. They were going to expand their fish plant, at a cost for an additional \$4 million. They requested a loan of \$1,104 million and a grant of \$335,000. It is going to create 67 new all-year round jobs down there. They employ 18 now full-time during the year, and 32 part-time. They applied to DREE. That was in October. It is an area of fantastic unemployment, perhaps 40 or 50 per cent unemployment, and the minister has not given his O.K. yet. The federal Department of Fisheries and the Environment said in January that it was all right from the fisheries point of view. I had a silly letter from the minister yesterday saying they had to consider the 200-mile limit, to consider the fish stocks. I say he has to get the lead out of his drawers and help us put these people to work.

● (1652)

What kind of a government is it? The Prime Minister said in May, 1972, that we can be obsessed with unemployment. He was laughing off unemployment. He said we can be obsessed with unemployment, on March 11, 1972, as reported in the *Montreal Star*. I say "Yes, Mr. Speaker, we damn well can". There are one million people obsessed with it. Any government that is not led by a man obsessed with unemployment in Canada today should resign and get out and let people take over who are obsessed with unemployment. I am obsessed with it, the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) is, and all the members on this side are obsessed with it.