

S. O. 21

[English]

EMPLOYMENT**JOB CREATION IN ATLANTIC CANADA—PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT**

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, unemployment in Atlantic Canada is unacceptably high. In some areas the official unemployment rate is 30 per cent. The unofficial rate is much higher. Since September, 1984, the Conservative Government has slashed its budgets for regional development and job creation. Atlantic Canada has been hardest hit by these cuts.

However, what did the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) recently say? On Tuesday of last week he claimed that his Government had created jobs in Atlantic Canada at twice the rate of the previous Government. Nothing could be further from the truth, Mr. Speaker. Then, on Thursday, the Prime Minister gave a regional breakdown of his Government's job-creation record. He seemed to have forgotten what he said only two days before. On Thursday he said, "Some 46 per cent of the jobs created were in Ontario, 28 per cent in Quebec, 22 per cent in western Canada, and so on". The "and so on" is Atlantic Canada.

The figures show that three regions got 96 per cent of the jobs created while the "and so on", the Prime Minister's new description of Atlantic Canada, got only 4 per cent of the jobs. The words "and so on" are an insult to our region. The unemployed in Atlantic Canada are fed up with the Prime Minister's exaggerated rhetoric. What they really need is concrete action by the Government to create jobs.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND CANADA**

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, the visit of the President of France is a historical, major event for Canada, and testifies to relations of trust with our Government.

As a Member for Quebec, I am pleased to see that the French President recognizes that Canada is a bilingual country, while recognizing Quebec's cultural identity.

If the representative of a French unilingual nation reached that conclusion, I sincerely believe it is because of the efforts of this Government and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) who recognizes Quebec's distinctive nature, what with Quebec's entry into the Canadian Constitution.

Moreover, as the Member for Drummond, I can testify to the economic co-operation between France and Canada, in view of the recent location of a number of French industries in my constituency.

For example, Société Yvan Paques Inc., Sopréma, Disque Améric and Fromagerie Lemaire, who just reached an agreement with France, are concrete examples of that co-operation.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by referring to the partnership started in 1985 between Cascades Corporation and Béguin Saye, which now benefits the economies of both countries by creating jobs on both sides of the Atlantic!

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● (1405)

[English]

WELFARE**FOOD BANKS IN CITIES—NEED FOR CHANGES IN WELFARE SYSTEM**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, in Toronto, Canada's most prosperous city with the lowest unemployment rate, there are now 180 voluntary agencies doling out food baskets to people. In my city of Winnipeg there are now 98 groups doing a similar job. Many of the people who need help from these food banks are children. The same situation is happening in every city and town in Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

People do not want to depend on charity to meet their needs for food. Surely it is time for the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) to meet with his provincial counterparts in order to assess the reality of the disaster which has befallen us, and to realize that the present welfare system is not working. Surely it is time for him to work with his provincial counterparts to change the system so that people will no longer have to depend on charity as they do at the present time.

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TOURISM**CAPE BRETON—EXTENSION OF FLEUR DE LIS TRAIL URGED**

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, the Fleur de Lis Trail in Cape Breton is a major tourism issue. This tourism issue does not only get support from opposition Members of Parliament, but also from municipalities, including the Municipalities of the County of Cape Breton, the Town of Louisbourg, the Municipality of the County of Richmond, the Cape Breton Island Mayors and Wardens Council, as well as the Cape Breton Island Tourism Association.

All of them have called upon the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia to provide the necessary funding for extension of this very famous and highly scenic