

opinion considers that these agreements, especially that with British Columbia, are illegal and unconstitutional.

In 1967 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in interpreting the Canadian constitution that offshore mineral rights were a federal responsibility. They said that under the Canadian constitution offshore mineral rights off British Columbia were a Canadian federal responsibility. Consequently that court decision is part of Canadian constitutional law and cannot be changed by any federal-provincial agreement signed by the Prime Minister of Canada and the premier of British Columbia. The only way the Prime Minister can transfer offshore mineral rights to British Columbia, and perhaps to any province, is by a constitutional amendment. You cannot change the constitution by administrative action.

So far I have spoken about the complete sham displayed by the Tory government which preaches one thing and does another when it comes to respecting Parliament. Now I would like to mention some of the government's contradictions.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Miss MacDonald) went to the United Nations preaching peace, virtue, aid and detente, but ended up causing the exact opposite. By her confused diplomacy she has hurt the proliferation of nuclear weapons and left the world with less safeguards. Before her ill-chosen remarks regarding Argentina, that country had expressed its intention to purchase the Canadian Candu reactor and to accept the stringent safeguards laid down by the previous government. Now she has prompted them by her remarks to purchase a more expensive German reactor with less stringent safeguards. What did she accomplish by her speech? The world is less secure and she has caused great harm to the Canadian economy.

It goes on, Mr. Speaker. During the election period the Tories campaigned "Vote Conservative and get the country working again". Then they left Parliament on the sidelines for five months, crippled the Canada Works program and so far have replaced it with nothing else; lost the Candu sale to Argentina and a lot of jobs; and lost the Foothills pipeline by their inaction and negligence, losing more jobs.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Allmand: That is getting Canada working again.

Some hon. Members: Order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Scott, Victoria-Haliburton): Order. The hon. member should be entitled to the courtesy of the House in order to complete his speech.

Mr. Allmand: The new Canada Works criteria are completely ridiculous because they do not account for very strong pockets of unemployment in ridings which are otherwise well off. I can give examples. The other day my colleague from Saint-Henri-Westmount, who represents a portion of Saint-Henri and the Westmount part of Montreal, spoke. As everyone knows, the Westmount part is rather affluent, but Saint-Henri is not affluent at all. Because the level of unemployment in the total riding is not over 9 per cent, he gets no money at

all from the Canada Works program to help the unemployed in his riding. The same is true in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. While some parts are fairly well off, there are pockets of real unemployment and poverty and we get no money. As a matter of fact, the whole west end of Montreal was cut off from Canada Works moneys because of the policies of the Tory government.

Under our policy we had a minimum amount for every constituency in this country to take care of those ridings where the total level of unemployment might be very low but with pockets of unemployment. They talk about democracy, but they abolished the constituency advisory group for Canada Works. In my riding on two occasions the president of my constituency advisory group for Canada Works was the Conservative candidate in the last election. That is the kind of group we had. I wanted a group under which the money would not be given out on a political basis. As I said, for two years the Conservative candidate was president of my committee, and another year it was the president of the NDP association as well as clergymen, principals of schools and so on. That has been abolished. Now Canada Works money where it applies will be given out on the advice of the Conservative member of Parliament or the defeated candidate.

The most startling omission in the Speech from the Throne is its silence respecting national unity. The Speech from the Throne mentions some activity in the area of federal-provincial relations, such as Loto Canada; but as I said before, I would argue that those things which are mentioned in the long run are initiatives that will lead to disunity.

One can judge the low priority this government gives to national unity by some of its actions or lack of actions. They abolished the national unity office. They postponed the constitutional conference that was to be held this fall. That was promised during the election campaign. They postponed it because they do not know what position they will take. They killed the referendum bill we had before Parliament to keep the separatist government in Quebec honest on their referendum bill. They decided not to proceed with that; they will trust the Quebec separatist government on that matter.

We have had no word on an entrenched bill of rights in the constitution. As a minority English-speaking Quebecers, that is something that we, along with Francophones outside of Quebec, place high priority on. We want a bill of rights in our constitution to protect minorities in this country, not only linguistic minorities, but those of religion, race, sex and so on.

The other day the hon. member for Nipissing (Mr. Blais) placed a motion before this House asking that this House support French speaking Canadians in the Penetang area of Ontario in their request for a minority language school. Some Conservatives said no to that request. We have not heard anything from this government with regard to federal assistance for minority language education and second language education. To my knowledge, they have done nothing to try and implement the bill passed in this House in the last session giving the right to French and English Canadians to have criminal trials in the language of their choice.