

instead of from the people he was representing in that particular community.

Let me answer the other part of the question. This Government has created literally thousands of jobs in Newfoundland but government in this country must be a partnership of both levels of government. While we have taken many initiatives to create jobs all over Newfoundland, the provincial Government in Newfoundland itself has done absolutely nothing. If the two Governments had been working together, the Hon. Member is right that the unemployment rate would be much lower. The reason it is twice as high as the national average is that there has been a Government in Newfoundland at St. John's that has absolutely refused to govern. It is too busy making speeches.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I listened with a great deal of interest to the Hon. Member when he was talking about the constituency of Joliette. First he said that the Liberals had poured vast sums of money into Joliette, and then he had the gall to say that it was for the purpose of re-electing the present Tory Member. Everyone knows that this was done without concern for the present Member for Joliette (Mr. LaSalle) but to try to defeat him and buy a Liberal a seat.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Taylor: They start hollering when you tell the truth. Does the Hon. Member think that the Quebec people are that naive?

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, it is not the people of Quebec who I think are naive. Every last person in Quebec understood the tongue-in-cheek nature of the comment I made about keeping the Member for Joliette here. I only regret that my good friend from Bow River (Mr. Taylor) does not understand tongue-in-cheek because of another problem called foot-in-mouth.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): The period for questions and comments has expired.

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take part in this debate. Before commencing my remarks let me read the motion which is before the House. It is:

That this House condemns the government for:

1. employing corporate tax handouts to produce business profits without any guarantees that such tax benefits would result in new investment or job creation;
2. increasing the tax burden on Canadians at the very time when more stimulus is needed in the economy; and
3. allocating job-creation funds in a partisan fashion not based upon local employment levels.

We are also debating an amendment moved by the Conservative Opposition that the motion be followed by:

Instead of focusing on job-creation programs open to all eligible Canadians, such as Career Access and refundable Employment Tax Credits.

In commencing my remarks I would like first to focus on the amendment. In that respect, I want to draw the attention of

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the House to a message I just received over the phone during the last period of questions and comments. My constituency is now faced with a new problem as a result of the blood brothers and blood sisters of this Conservative outfit to our right in the government of the Province of British Columbia.

In May of 1983 the new Valhalla Alpine Provincial Park was created in my constituency by the provincial Government in response to pressure from a very broad cross section of opinion. The President of the society which launched that successful drive will receive the Governor General's medal for conservation in Canada later this month as a result of his discussions with the Canadian tourist industry.

The industry properly feels that this new park has the possibility of providing our area with some flexibility in our local economy to compensate for some of the losses that we have suffered due to the deterioration of our forest industry, which in turn is a result of mismanagement by both the federal Government and the provincial Government under which we suffer.

The news I received a few moments ago concerns the federal Government's highly touted new employment program Environment 2000. The local Parks Branch personnel in my area who are familiar with our needs and characteristics were supporting an application under Environment 2000 to build some trails and facilities in that park in order to develop it. This, in turn, would provide some alternative employment based on the tourist industry and the service industry in that area. The provincial Ministry of Parks in Victoria has vetoed that proposal.

I will raise the point more than once that it is strange to have a Conservative Opposition in the House which talks about focusing on job creation programs that are open to all eligible Canadians while their blood brothers and blood sisters in that gang that masquerades as a provincial Government in British Columbia kills every opportunity that we have to begin to grow, diversify and create some long-term employment in our area. It is an area that has one of the highest rates of unemployment in British Columbia and is coming close to being one of the highest unemployment areas in Canada.

The figures that I received today from Employment Canada officers in my area show that the Nelson area now has an unemployment rate of some 24.6 per cent. The unemployment rate in the major community of Nelson itself is now hovering close to 27 per cent or 28 per cent. With announced further cutbacks, further lay-offs and more closures of institutions, in my home town in that riding we will be doing very well if we are much under 40 per cent in the next couple of months. We are facing a disaster.

I am sure most politicians who try to work on behalf of their constituents will cut cards with the devil if necessary in order to get results for their people. I am thankful that during the last four years I have been able to play some part in co-operation with many federal officials in achieving more in terms of grants and programs to assist us in rebuilding an agricultural base in some parts of our area and rebuilding some of the cottage industry which used to thrive there. But this attempt to