

*Supply*

facing a crisis, we have also decided to inject \$500 million into a special program which is now being negotiated with the provinces. Members of Parliament have been invited to make suggestions. Communities and municipalities will be asked to co-operate, and we hope that this injection of \$500 million for immediate job creation will urge municipalities and other organizations to do their share so that we may finally be able to create not only the 60,000 jobs provided by these \$500 million, but double that figure thanks to the essential co-operation of other sectors of our society.

I suggest to the Hon. Members that it is true that the constitutional debate may have somewhat shaken the process of consultation and this climate of co-operation in Canada. We were not always at our best. However, in my opinion, to suggest that, in the last ten or fifteen years, the federal government, the Liberal government of Mr. Trudeau has done away with all consultation is nonsense. I say that a review of our achievements during the last fifteen years shows that without consultation, without a dialogue between the various parties involved, we could never have survived as a nation. Let us remember the situation that prevailed in 1968. As for those fifteen years under a Liberal government, let us look at the major events. Already in 1968, and even before, the then Minister of Justice was speaking about the omnibus bill. It was—

**An Hon. Member:** Your time has expired!

**Mr. Loiselle:** I want to finish. We had that bill, we passed the Official Languages Act which created shockwaves at the time and which is now beginning to be better accepted. We unfortunately had to face the October crisis, the oil crisis of 1973 and a period of high inflation, and, of course, we had to take strong action. We then had to adjust to reality with regard to energy; we had no choice, we had to, and even though I am not too much in favour of state corporations, we had to intervene and take position. We had the constitutional debate and we still have before us the reform of our institutions when a dialogue with and the participation of the provinces and other concerned groups will be necessary, and I believe that if we had been as nasty, if we had spoiled so drastically the climate favourable to dialogue and consultation, we could not look forward so positively to the debates which must now be held, after which we shall be able once more to tell the Canadian people that they are living in the best country in the world.

● (1720)

[*English*]

**Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, I feel it is very appropriate that I am making this, my maiden speech in the House, on the subject of unemployment because it is a matter of great concern to the people of Timiskaming. In many ways, Timiskaming is a microcosm of Canada and, as such, it shares many of the problems found elsewhere in this country, the most urgent one being unemployment.

The riding of Timiskaming extends some 350 miles from Lake Nipissing north along the Quebec border to James Bay.

It varies in width from 35 miles at its narrowest point to 115 miles at its widest.

The economy within the 20,000 square mile area of northern Ontario is based on mining, forestry, agriculture and, to a lesser degree, tourism. The geography of the riding varies from the James Bay lowlands to the Canadian Shield to the Little Clay Belt agricultural area. It is an area of great natural beauty and is a hunter's and fisherman's paradise.

The 55,000 people in Timiskaming are of varied cultural backgrounds, reflecting the multicultural nature of our country. About 30 per cent are Francophones and there is also a large native population.

The communities in the riding vary in size, with the largest, Kirkland Lake, having a population of 12,500. Although our communities are scattered throughout such a vast area, the warmth and hospitality of the people is the same in all corners of the riding. The people of Timiskaming have retained the pioneering spirit that was responsible for the development of northern Ontario.

They are a hardworking, energetic and proud people, but like more than 1.4 million Canadians from coast to coast many of them now find themselves unemployed. I have said I believe Timiskaming is a mirror image of Canada and I think this was apparent during the recent byelection.

When the boundaries of the riding were expanded to the north and south in 1978, the people in Field and Verner in the south end and those in Moosonee and Moose Factory in the north end could not relate to the central part of the riding, but all that changed during the recent byelection. People from one end of the riding to the other realized that they did have common problems. They realized those problems are the same in communities across this country. The biggest problem of all is unemployment.

The failing economy and skyrocketing unemployment united the people of Timiskaming during the byelection. This is one case where the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) can rightfully claim to have promoted unity.

The people of Timiskaming elected me on October 12 to deliver a message to this Government. They are fed up with what is going on in this country and they want to see a change. The unemployment level in my riding is running at almost 17 per cent and there are no signs of improvement. Bankruptcies, shutdowns and business closures have become commonplace. All have been caused by the sorry state of our economy and each time the unemployment rolls swell a little more.

Just last week, 390 iron ore miners were laid off for the second time this year at the Adams Mine in Kirkland Lake. Earlier this year, 450 iron ore miners at the Sherman Mine in Temagami were laid off for 11 weeks. These miners are not being laid off because of any international surpluses. These iron ore miners are being forced to shut down because of the decreased domestic demand for steel due to the state of our economy. When people are not buying cars and manufactured goods, there is no demand for steel. When there is no demand for steel, there is no demand for iron ore.