

than to invest money in reforestation projects, in fisheries enhancement projects, in urban infrastructure developments across the country, and in assistance to West Coast shipyards through the contract for the Polar 8 ice-breaker. These are the kinds of initiatives which the Government could take at this point. They would not be make-work programs. They would not be spending money; they would be investing money in the future of Canada. Rather than having hundreds of thousands of Canadians who are dependent upon UIC or welfare, they could be gainfully employed in long-term jobs and could contribute to the future of Canada.

We have urged the Government on a daily basis to take that kind of approach, yet all we see are cuts and cuts. The Minister of Employment also said that the regions would have to fend for themselves. The Throne Speech indicated a concern about unemployment in the regions of the country and that another bureaucratic structure would be created in Atlantic Canada. There was no money, no support, no financial endorsement; just the creation of another system of bureaucracy. That will not result in economic development, new economic opportunities, and consequently long-term jobs.

The people of Canada wanted to see some action and some commitment. For years and years under the previous Liberal administration we saw very little in terms of any direction for Canada. People were sick and tired of the floundering around. They wanted more than a Throne Speech which tried to cover all political bases to allow the Prime Minister, members of the Cabinet and members of the Government to go out and say: "We are concerned about you. We are interested in your region, your particular part of Canada". Rather than try to cover all political bases, the Government ought to have identified three or four critical areas so that the people of Canada would perceive a clear direction unfolding. We did not see that. The Government says that it cannot afford it. We can afford it in part through a reform of the tax system. We have found out that 79,000 corporations were profitable over the last number of years and did not pay a single cent in income tax in some years.

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We see the unfairness of the tax system evolve. Rather than 50/50 per cent from the corporate and the personal side of the tax system, it is now 82/18 per cent, with 82 of the tax revenues coming from individuals, not corporations. We see the bias in favour of the large corporations at the expense of the small manufacturers. We see the bias in our tax system, the bias toward large corporate central Canada at the expense of the regions of Canada. That is the kind of unfairness that Governments have built into the system over the years. The people of Canada wanted to see that change.

As a result of consultations with people like Howard McDermid, Kenna Cartwright, Peter Ralston and Gordon Priestman and many, many others in my constituency, ideas, programs and thoughtful policies were suggested which would

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create the much needed jobs, provide a fairer form of Government and a fair set of opportunities for Canadians, particularly British Columbians. Those are the things we ought to have. When the people of Canada elected a Tory Government to run the country, they did not mean ruin the country. Basically what we are seeing today is a continual deterioration of the hopes and aspirations of Canadian families and individuals.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Bring back Ian Deans.

Mr. Riis: It is time that we had a change of government focus, a new initiative and a real direction for our country. I do not think there is an individual in this House who would not say they were fortunate to live in the best country of the world and the most prosperous. All it requires is the will to get on so that all Canadians can benefit in its valuable and rich resources.

Mr. Malone: Mr. Speaker, I am always amazed that members of the New Democratic and Liberal Parties can give these scathing speeches and then wind up saying that Canada is the best nation in the world. Obviously, everything cannot be done wrong while still having the best country in the world.

Would the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis), after having asked us in our Speech from the Throne if we could have focused on only three or four critical areas, give us his commitment, if at some future date there are only three or four focused directions of a Government, that NDP Members will not rise and say we should have done more, that other things should have been in the Speech and list what should be covered? Is it the Member's view that three or four is the right number and that he will never again rise in his place, if that is done, and say: "Gee, you ought to be talking about some other issues that are not there"?

Mr. Nunziata: You are being absolutely ridiculous.

Mr. Malone: Would the Hon. Member give that commitment so the people will know how much he is committed to the words that he says?

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I have had lots of questions put to me in this House. This is a very interesting question, which is all I can say, interesting in that I can think right off the cuff of four or five things that the Conservatives would likely have as critical planks in their platform that I could never support. I could imagine a whole number of points that I could not support. I believe it is time that the Government provided us, through a Throne Speech, a Budget or whatever, with a mechanism with a very clear direction that will launch Canada into a new era of economic prosperity, fairness, justice and honesty for all, and if that were the case, then you bet, Mr. Speaker, I would support it. But to support a number of the policies that I know the Hon. Member holds very dear to his heart, I could not bring myself to do that.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great interest to the very thoughtful remarks of my colleague, the