

Job Creation

the problem for the present and resolve it for the future. There are a number of things the government can do. Some of them have already been described.

While I do not want to be negative about government efforts to provide jobs for Canadians, I do want to emphasize the fact that the government simply is not doing enough, and what it is doing is not effective.

First, there is a great deal of uncertainty about what amount of money and effort the government spends on job-creation activity. The budget document would have one believe that the expenditure on projects such as Canada Community Development is in the area of \$500 million. However, the documents issued by the Minister of Employment and Immigration indicate that the sum is much smaller. I have a letter from the minister that says that \$113 million will be spent on the Canada community development project and then the whole program was cancelled, Mr. Speaker.

We are not always impressed with the figures released by the minister, the person now responsible for the finances of Canada, the hon. member for Cape Breton Highlands-Canso. We also heard from the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. Dingwall) who lauded his government's efforts. In Cape Breton there is an expression to the effect that some people tell the truth rather carelessly, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond when he lauded the government for its efforts to cure unemployment, told the truth rather carelessly. He referred to the efforts made in the Cape Breton coal mines and the expenditure there of \$100 million to create hundreds of jobs. The government has announced that program on three or four occasions, Mr. Speaker. It is similar to the situation with the Panamax Dry Dock to be installed in the shipyards in Halifax. That announcement has been made on two or three occasions. I could go on and on with the announcements, the pre-announcements—

● (2100)

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, a point of order. Would the hon. member entertain a question at this time?

Mr. Crosby: I will be glad to entertain a question at the conclusion of my address, Mr. Speaker. As you know, and as the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond knows, my time is limited.

An hon. Member: When are you going to start?

Mr. Crosby: With your permission, I will continue, Mr. Speaker. I believe that job creation in the Atlantic area has to centre on ocean related industries. Those industries in particular are fishing, energy development offshore, marine transportation, which consists of onshore facilities and shipbuilding and, of course, there has to be a general concern for the development of resources. In the fishing industry, last August two companies—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his allotted time has expired.

The hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Tobin).

Mr. Brian Tobin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to yield to my colleague if the hon. member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby) is prepared to answer a question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The hon. member for Halifax West.

Mr. Crosby: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to conclude my remarks let me say, as I already have, that the—

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, I will continue with my address.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I thought the hon. member was seeking the floor on a point of order. The hon. parliamentary secretary.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak instead. I yielded some time to my colleague to answer a question, but the hon. member for Halifax West just wanted to continue with his speech.

Mr. Crosby: Mr. Speaker, there seems to be confusion on the government side. It was—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, that point of order made about as much sense as everything else the hon. member said in the last 15 minutes, which was not a lot. The only thing that the hon. member for Halifax West and the NDP have in common is that they are both very good at telling us that the solution to the problem in the short term is to create jobs. Despite 40 minutes of careful listening to the comments of a member from each party opposite, I did not hear one sensible, serious solution offered to the House. They have none. They are bankrupt of ideas.

I want to address myself first of all to the remarks of the hon. member for Halifax West. He told us today that he supported job-creation measures; that this was a good idea and there should be more of it. This is the party which for a few short months, Mr. Speaker, managed to cancel the CCDP, which he now supports; slashed the small craft harbour's budget—and he comes from Atlantic Canada—which he now supports; allowed freezer trawlers in the Gulf of St. Lawrence thus pushing the labour intensive inshore fishermen out of the water, whom he now supports; cancelled the summer youth program which gave jobs to college students so that they could go back to university in the fall, which he now supports—I could go on and on Mr. Speaker.

The hon. member for Halifax West says that he is not impressed with this government's efforts to create jobs. I want to say categorically that I am not impressed with his sudden conversion and support of the policies of the government, the policies that we restored upon returning to government in