

*Supply*

is Maislin Trucking with 2,000 jobs, Mitel Regional Expansion with 1,700 jobs, loans to Advocate Mines, 134 jobs re-established and 366 jobs to be re-established in coming months, and fruit and vegetable storage, 150 short-term construction jobs and 250 other jobs. There are 5,500 person-years provided by new fighter aircraft. Need I go on, Mr. Speaker? I am only on page 2 and I have seven pages of job-creation programs that this Government has introduced. How can anyone in the House say that the Government has taken a callous attitude toward the plight of the unemployed? It is simply rubbish.

• (1420)

I understand that under these new proceedings, Members opposite are entitled to pose questions at the end of my remarks. I would be delighted to give details of any of the programs to which I have referred and supply any additional information they might wish to have with respect to other programs, which I do not have time to read since I will not finish within my allotted time. However, those are job-creation initiatives.

Let us discuss another part of this motion. The Hon. Member for Rosedale seems to have left but he suggests in this motion that this Government has not tried to forge a social and economic consensus between business, labour and Government.

[*Translation*]

This is really incredible. We have been making a real effort to hold consultations, more so than ever before, and it is truly incredible that we should be accused of not communicating with all groups and sectors in our society, with the unions, the business world and the provincial governments. We have been conducting consultations across the country for many years, while the pace has been stepped up last year and this year as well.

[*English*]

Again, let me make reference to some of these consultative efforts since we have been accused of not forging our fences or not attempting to. Incidentally, I should say for the benefit of Members opposite that the meetings to which I am about to refer are official meetings between Ministers that are formally structured. Apart from those meetings, as the Hon. Member for Rosedale undoubtedly knows since he is a former Minister, there are many meetings and consultations held in an effort to achieve what the French-speaking people refer to as "concertation" between all these sectors.

Let me cite some examples. Between March and June of 1982, leading up to the last budget, Ministers met with the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Investment Dealers' Association of Canada, the presidents of the stock exchanges, the Chamber of Commerce, the Conseil du Patronat du Québec, the Canadian Petroleum Association and allied associations, the B.C. Employers Council in Vancouver, the Business Council on National Issues and selected business groups in Toronto at two separate meetings. As I recall, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) participated in those meetings. Meetings were also held with selected Atlantic Canada

businessmen in Halifax, the Canadian Labour Congress in Ottawa, the Co-Operative Union of Canada in Ottawa and then the Canadian Federation of Agriculture in Ottawa.

As Hon. Members will recall, in the wake of the six and five program, in terms of continuing this round of consultation, further meetings were held with business participants in Ottawa. It was a large meeting at which the Prime Minister was present. In fact, he was present at many of these meetings. Again, there were meetings with the Canadian Labour Congress, the Canadian Federation of Labour, the Canadian Labour Congress once again, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the housing and construction industry, the automotive industry, representatives of small business, representative groups from Quebec-based enterprises in Montreal, representative groups from high technology centres in Ottawa, the agri-food representatives, the Investment Dealers' Association once again, the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, food and grocery products industry representatives and representatives of the co-operative movement. The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) met with the so-called Sinclair Committee on six and five, and the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet), who I see is in the House, met with consumer groups.

Currently this year, meetings were held with the Conseil du Patronat du Québec and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) in prebudget consultations. There are meetings with the Atlantic Provincial Economic Council, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the Canadian Banking Association, the Investment Dealers' Association once again, the Retail Council, the Canadian Labour Congress. And on it goes. I am lost in the number of consultations that have been held with a view to forging the very kind of consensus that this motion moved by the Hon. Member for Rosedale speaks to.

I find it quite extraordinary for—

[*Translation*]

—for the Member for Rosedale (Mr. Crombie) to be accusing us of not having held consultations and of failing to have made any effort in this respect. In fact, as I have just said, we have established consultation procedures that did not even exist before.

[*English*]

That being said, let me address another issue that is raised by this motion. It concerns the issue of an increasing lack of job security which threatens the livelihood and well-being of this country's remaining 10.4 million workers. I have spoken for a moment about the plight of unemployment and some of the programs that have been implemented to ease that plight. However, there are those who feel insecure about their jobs because of the high unemployment rate. It is important that this be put in a realistic context which, I would suggest to the Members of the House, can also be seen as an optimistic context.