

*The Address—Mr. Allmand*

them are temporary or part-time. He did not refer to the unemployment rate of 9.7 per cent. The Government is very crafty. It keeps comparing today's unemployment record with the record of the Liberals in the pit of the recession of 1982 and 1983. There were rates of unemployment in the 12 to 13 per cent range all over the world at that time. Britain, with a Conservative Government, still has approximately 12 per cent unemployment.

The point is that that is a ridiculous comparison. If we are coming out of the recession as the Government claims, why do we still have an unemployment rate of 9.7 per cent? The rate of unemployment in 1981, the year before the recession, was 7.5 per cent. Why does the Government not compare the present rate with that 7.5 per cent which was achieved under a Liberal Government? Why does the Government not refer to the fact that during the Trudeau and Pearson years from 1965 to 1980 the rate of unemployment was 5.6 per cent? As a matter of fact, in my first year in Parliament in 1965 the rate in the middle of the summer was 2.9 per cent.

These are goals to strive for but the Government is trying to mislead Canadians by comparing the 9.7 per cent unemployment rate, which is nothing to brag about, with the 10, 11, and 12 per cent rates of the pit of the recession in 1982 and 1983. The Government cannot even bring the rate down to 7.5 per cent as it was in 1981 immediately prior to the recession.

Of course, the reason the Government is not doing that is that it has no real commitment to a program to create jobs and help the unemployed. That was made clear in the speech given yesterday by the Minister of Employment and Immigration in which he more or less said that the Government leaves it up to the regions, the private sector and individuals to take care of themselves. That is a real Tory philosophy and one that they may want to defend. However, it is not what they promised in the last election and it is not the type of policy which has been traditional in Canada where there has always been a good partnership between the state, the private sector and unions on job creation.

Twice since World War II Liberal Governments have made a commitment to full employment. That commitment was made under Louis St. Laurent in 1949 and full employment was achieved for three consecutive years. The commitment was made again under Mr. Pearson in 1963 and full employment was achieved for three to four years. It can be done again but the Government does not have the political will to do it. That is the way it seems, because the Government is abdicating its responsibility for the unemployed and saying that is better left to the private sector and others. The private sector has a role to play but it must be assisted by the Government in a very meaningful and effective way.

The Government did not mention many of the other problems before us with respect to jobs. The Government's own Department of Employment and Immigration published a report in August of 1985 entitled "*Older Workers, An Imminent Crisis in the Labour Market*". Those are not our words, Mr. Speaker, those are the words of a report published

by the Canadian Employment and Immigration Advisory Council. This report with respect to older workers that was submitted to the former Minister said there was an imminent crisis in the labour market with respect to these workers. It made several recommendations for improvement and, according to my count, the Government has promised to do something about one of the recommendations in the report but has not done so yet.

● (1130)

Another employment issue that the Government did not mention in the Speech from the Throne and which the Minister of Employment and Immigration did not mention yesterday was that despite a slight lowering in the unemployment rate, down from over 10 per cent to 9.6 per cent or 9.7 per cent, the number of those unemployed for more than a year has doubled since the end of the recession in 1984 and has quadrupled since 1981. There are four times as many people unemployed for more than a year in 1986 than in 1981, but that problem was not mentioned either.

Therefore, we have the matter of older workers, long-term unemployment and the trend to part-time unemployment. In his speech the other day, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said that the great majority of jobs being created under the Conservative Government are full-time jobs. Again, he is comparing that record with the years of the recession under the former Liberal Government, which is a bit dishonest. If we go back to the time of the former Liberal Government, starting at approximately 1980 or even before, there has been a growing trend to more and more part-time jobs. That trend continued upward and it is no solace to those people who are forced into part-time jobs for the Prime Minister to say that there is a smaller percentage of part-time jobs in 1986 than there was in the pit of recession in 1983 or 1982. All economists will certify that the long-range trend is upward. It is a fact of life about which nothing is being done.

The problem with part-time jobs is that very often they are minimum wage jobs in which the people are non-unionized and have no access to pensions or other employee benefits. While some people want those part-time jobs, there is an increasing number of people who want full-time jobs but cannot get them and take part-time work because it is all they can get. I suggest that it is no solution to slough off the problem.

Let me deal with a few other matters in the Speech from the Throne, such as the whole question of national reconciliation. The Government talks of the Charter of Rights and the fact that it would like to have Quebec assent to the Constitution, but it does not deal with any detailed matters. For example, it does not mention the desirability of removing the notwithstanding, or *non obstante* clause, in the Charter of Rights which was really imposed on the Government and Parliament because the parliamentary special committee on the Constitution did not agree to have a notwithstanding clause in the Charter of Rights. In order to arrive at an agreement in the final negotiations, the provinces imposed that clause on the