

Job Creation

Mr. Dingwall: Thank you very much. Hon. members are requesting that I be nice. I am always nice. However, I want to assure the House that it is my intention and desire to listen to their concerns and to listen to what they want to suggest on how we can improve upon our programs. However, again, I will not sit here and listen to their facts which are totally inaccurate. I believe that all hon. members should approach this debate very seriously. When one approaches this debate on the unemployed and job creation, one must put all the facts on the table, both the good and the bad. I hope that in the ensuing months, all of us on all sides of this House will hear some good music in the sense that job creation will be heightened and that the unemployment rate will be substantially reduced. I think that is the wish of us all.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): It is just prior to six o'clock. I would recognize the hon. member for Nanaimo-Alberni (Mr. Miller); however, it being six o'clock, I will leave the Chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When the House recessed for the dinner hour, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Alberni (Mr. Miller) was to be given the floor.

Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to speak on this opposition day motion. The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. Dingwall) gave the New Democratic Party a compliment. He also complimented those people in Canada who have been protesting government policies over a year and a half. On this side of the House we were beginning to feel that our arguments on the economy and interest rates were not being listened to. Obviously from the kind of reaction we had from the hon. member and the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) some impact has been felt by the government because it has become fairly sensitive to what it feels is becoming known in the land as an uncaring government. We have heard a lot about caring from the members of the government side today. Government members profess to be as caring as the New Democratic Party. This is quite hard to believe. If that is what the government members wish to believe, that is fine.

Perhaps the message from those people who come from Mississauga and Toronto about the housing crisis, did get through to the government, although that did not appear to be the case at the time. Perhaps the message from those people who came to protest the curtailment of VIA Rail, got through to this government. Perhaps the telegrams had some impact. Perhaps the message which the native people brought to

Parliament Hill this afternoon got through to this government. I would like to ask those members on the Liberal side who are caring whether they are caring enough to carry a message to the Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan). I am concerned about this afternoon's demonstration by our native people in front of the Parliament buildings. As a Member of Parliament, I thought it quite disgraceful that our native people were greeted in front of the Parliament of Canada by a line of RCMP officers. If we are sensitive to the feelings of Canadians, whether they are native Canadians, Canadian women or the population as a whole, we should greet the Canadian public in front of our Parliament buildings without having a line of RCMP officers there, especially when the demonstration is peaceful or just a demonstration for recognition as Canadians. I hope the members who are here will take that message to their colleagues who are not. What happened this afternoon was a disgraceful exhibition.

I am sure that the people in my constituency are as amazed as I am each time we have an election, because the Liberal Party seems to confound the public into believing that everything is new and that it has no responsibility for what happened in Canada previously. Today we have heard all about wonderful Liberal programs the government is introducing to create jobs and to protect the income of Canadians. We hear about an industrial strategy. But this government has been in power since 1963, with the exception of nine short months. I am sure those months seemed very short to the Tory party, but they were very long months for many Canadians. The government on the other side of the House has not lived up to the campaign promises which it has made to the Canadian public for years. I hope that Canadians in Ontario and in Quebec in particular will wake up to the fact that campaign promises we hear from this government are really just campaign promises.

The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond condemned the New Democratic Party for being purveyors of doom and gloom. It is not the New Democratic Party and it is not the Tory party who are the purveyors of doom and gloom, it is the economic conditions of this country. The Canadian public know what the Canadian economy is all about. A recent Gallup poll showed that 65 per cent of Canadians surveyed expect our economy to get worse this winter. In British Columbia, 72 per cent of those polled have lost confidence in the Canadian economy and in our federal government. In Atlantic Canada 77 per cent of those polled feel that unemployment and economic conditions will get worse instead of better. The poll was taken before the introduction of the budget.

It would be interesting to find out now what the attitude of the people living in Atlantic Canada and elsewhere in Canada is after having a budget presented which does nothing to put people back to work. This budget is the most dismal budget ever delivered by a minister of finance for years and years, especially in a period when Canadians are facing crisis situations in home ownership, business, fishing and farming. It is no wonder that the people in Atlantic Canada are pessimistic about the government's willingness to improve the situation.