

people, out of a work force of 221,000, or 42 per cent of the work force, in Newfoundland at this moment who are drawing unemployment insurance. That is twice the unemployment rate of 20 per cent. We all know that to draw unemployment insurance you have to be available for work. That is one of the conditions of being able to draw unemployment insurance. Presumably, these people are legitimately unemployed, yet they are not reported as part of the unemployment statistics.

A few days ago an announcement was made that Eastern Provincial Airways would be moving 300 jobs from Gander to Halifax. I am glad the jobs are staying in Canada. I do not begrudge Halifax. All I say to you, Sir, is that Eastern Provincial Airways has the right to move anywhere it wants in Canada but the Government has an obligation to pick up the slack.

Newfoundland gets 0.9 per cent of the national defence budget. Newfoundland receives 0.9 per cent of the national defence budget as opposed to 13.3 per cent for Nova Scotia. Here is an area where the Government can move in and pick up the slack.

Shortly before this we were told that the Bowater mill in Corner Brook would be closing down in April unless a new buyer was found. There will be 1,300 jobs lost in April, not to mention the spin-off in terms of the woodworkers and the City of Corner Brook. A major paper mill in this country will close in April unless a new buyer is found. We are told that the prospects are not good. Yet a few weeks ago the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Regan) announced that this Government was financing to the tune of U.S. \$143 million a new paper mill in Malaysia.

Where in the name of God are our priorities? Does the Government think that because we have a built-in unemployment rate of 20 per cent nobody really cares, that the people in Newfoundland do not want to work? We would expect this Government to be looking for new markets for the paper that comes from that mill as opposed to financing the construction of new mills which will further exacerbate the situation for an industry in this country that is in very big trouble because of changes in the trading patterns and new trade arrangements between the Scandinavian countries and the European Economic Community. We are in deep, deep trouble.

Imagine 42 per cent of the work force drawing unemployment insurance in a province that has an abundance of natural resources, the greatest fisheries in the world, a province that has some of the greatest timber resources in the world, a province that has the greatest mineral resources in the world and the greatest potential in terms of untapped hydro resources in the western world, not to mention offshore oil and gas where we have the greatest proven reserves of very high grade crude in the world outside of the Middle East. Yet a province with that kind of a resource base has 42 per cent of its work force drawing unemployment insurance. The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary can call that by the same four-letter word if he likes, but the fact is that that kind of a situation in a federation like ours cannot be allowed to continue. It cannot be

allowed to exist. It cannot be condoned and it cannot be tolerated.

If we were to have an agreement today to develop the offshore, we would probably have to wait two or three years before we would feel the results of it. At least it would be something to look forward to. I came to Ottawa from my province during the weekend. There is a feeling of doom and gloom in Newfoundland. There are people watching me on television in Newfoundland right now because they have nothing else to do except watch television. They are drawing unemployment insurance. They do not want to. They want to work. They want to be able to produce. This is lost productivity to this country which we will never regain. They want to get on with the job of producing that tremendous resource base that we have in our province.

Newfoundlanders want to contribute to this country. They want to see opportunities for themselves and they want to see some kind of a future for their children. I say to you, Sir, those opportunities and dreams will go largely unfulfilled as long as we have a government that can accept a national rate of unemployment in this country of 11.2 per cent, that says that full employment is no longer a realistic goal, and that can ignore a provincial economy where 42 per cent of its work force is drawing unemployment insurance.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Are there any questions or comments? Debate.

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior): Mr. Speaker, I, too, wish you well in your new duties. In the brief time available to me to participate in this debate, I want to direct my remarks to just one sentence in the Speech from the Throne. That sentence is as follows:

Action will soon be taken to respond to the report of the parliamentary committee on Indian self-government.

May it be so, because the time is now to end an anomaly which has existed in Canada for far too long. This abnormality, this gross irregularity to which I refer, is that there are 400,000 of our citizens, Indian people, who are living in this country today in a state of colonialism. I am aware that is an emotion laden word, but I chose it very deliberately and carefully. I ask Members of this House how else do they describe a situation in which 400,000 people living in 600 communities scattered across Canada have virtually everything determined for them on a top-down, decision-making basis.

Their education, their child welfare, their economic development, their housing, their community development, their social services and health are all looked after for them by a huge bureaucracy of some 5,000 people who operate under an antiquated, unjust, discriminatory, prejudicial piece of legislation called the Indian Act, which is the worst piece of legislation that exists anywhere in the entire western world. Officials carry out their duties with appropriations from this House amounting to some \$2 billion a year.