

have been used, and have paid for themselves many times over through the additional business which they have generated.

In conclusion, I am convinced that if these incentives are offered to industry, they will produce the kind of economic stimulation which is so badly needed today, and we can begin the long climb back to a vibrant and healthy economy.

**Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, there is a question which arises in my mind after hearing the Speech from the Throne and now that we have entered into debate. That is, "Who wrote the throne speech?" I think if a Martian were visiting this planet and had listened to that throne speech, he would not have realized that the people who wrote the speech have been sitting in the government benches for 45 out of the last 56 years. Since 1963 the same people have been sitting across the way; the Liberal party has been the government of this country for 45 of the part 56 years.

● (1422)

**Mr. Alexander:** Too long.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Yes, far too long. One could comment that they are slow learners, but we appreciate that they are at least starting to learn. However, it may just be a political gimmick, because we find on page 5 of the Speech from the Throne these pearls of wisdom:

High rates of unemployment and inflation are clear signals of the inadequacy of economic strategies appropriate to simpler times. They are also signals of the urgent need for important structural adjustments in the economies of Canada and other industrialized countries. More than that, they are the symptoms of an illness which can be cured only by a readjustment of our values, and by a re-discovery of the merits of self-discipline and fair sharing.

On page 7 it is stated:

The human hardship imposed by the current level of unemployment in Canada is deeply disturbing. It is neither just nor tolerable that in this country there should be so many men and women deprived of the dignity of self-supporting work, unable to meet their financial commitments and plan confidently for the future. It is intolerable that so many are deprived of their right to secure productive lives, and that their families bear an unfair burden of worry, uncertainty, and deprivation. On a national scale, unemployment now constitutes a very serious obstacle to economic growth.

I am glad they finally recognize that. When the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) took office in 1968, the rate of unemployment was about 3.8 per cent. Today, it is 8.4 per cent. As you go across this country you find that the unemployment rate, in several regions far exceeds that; it is often triple, and sometimes quadruple, that rate.

Since I joined the New Democratic Party we have been telling this government that there is a need for economic planning. However, the government has refused to involve itself in planning the economy so that the citizens whom they govern may get the benefit of such planning.

It is outrageous that the corporations, the mining corporations, and one in particular which I will discuss in detail a little later, are being treated the way they are by this government. The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Cullen) admitted that he was called the night before this major lay-off announcement. He was told of the number that would be laid

off in the Sudbury basin and in Manitoba. We know about the wheeling and dealing that goes on on this Hill. Any time the government is considering a change to the Income Tax Act which might affect the corporate structure, one of their members runs over to the Rideau Club to have a confab with the banking and financial groups. They go back and forth to visit the cabinet ministers, and before you know it the lobbying has begun.

Insurance companies are a perfect example of that. Consultation takes place before the legislation is brought down. In this instance it is the mining corporations. It is a one-way street. In effect, the government is at the beck and call of the mighty corporations.

I invite the Prime Minister to come to the Sudbury basin and make the speech he made in London. Let him tell the people of the Sudbury basin that it is only a figment of their imagination that they are going to be unemployed; that the 2,200 people who have two years and 161 days of employment, or less, with the International Nickel Company will not really be laid off. I want him to tell them that they have been dreaming in black and white and it really is not so.

We have lost ten miners in the Sudbury basin this year because of unsafe conditions in the mine. The government has been promising, since time immemorial, that it will do something about reducing the danger to the health of workers. Incidentally, 1,000 miners have been lost in the past ten years. I want the Prime Minister to tell those miners that they have become soft because of their high living, and that they have been overpaid for the work they do. It is those across the way who are the experts in soft living.

The other day I heard a radio clip of a speech made by a former minister of finance, John Turner of Bay Street. He said that Canadians have to learn to tighten their belts and live within their means. He said they have to trim the fat. At the end of the clip, it was stated that Mr. Turner had been addressing the Association of Canadian Chartered Accountants in Hamilton, Bermuda.

**Mr. Orlikow:** Earning \$50,000 a year.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** He has joined the Bay Street barons; he has joined the boards of directors of several major corporations. That same gentleman is now organizing a \$125 a plate dinner at the Royal York hotel in Toronto for the Liberal party of metropolitan Toronto. Twelve hundred persons will pay out \$125 a plate. Who will pick up the tab? The taxpayers. I bet my bottom dollar they will put in for receipts in order to get tax rebates under the Election Expenses Act.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Instead of heckling, the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi, in New Brunswick, should be joining me. Unemployment in his riding in New Brunswick is now over 10.8 per cent.

**Mr. Hogan:** It is higher than that; it is 30 per cent.