

*Supply*

down the law and say that there would be no direct job-creation programs from the federal Government. It said that perhaps the private sector should create the jobs. That is precisely why I asked the question, Mr. Speaker. That will be a key question in the next federal election. That is a key question in areas of high unemployment where private enterprise does not exist to any great degree at all.

If the Hon. Member is saying that she supports the Summer Student Employment Program and wants more money to go into it and other direct job creation programs, then she is at variance with her Party. That is why I ask the question. Would the Hon. Member reconsider her answer in view of what happened when the Conservative Party took power?

**Miss MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, when the Conservative Party was in power the unemployment rate in the country was a lot lower than it is at the present time. He must bear the blame, along with everyone in that Party, for what has happened in the last four years. It is the policies of that Government that have driven the unemployment rate to the extreme height it is at today.

Of course the Hon. Member was not here earlier today when the various points as to what steps would be undertaken were spelled out. However, his constituents will know what they are. I would like him to know, Mr. Speaker, that the people in his riding are going to be asking him what he has done in the last four years to bring down the unemployment rate in Gander-Twillingate and the many other parts of Atlantic Canada which have suffered more than any other part of the country because of the policies of the Liberal Government.

**Mr. Pinard:** There are Tory Governments in those provinces.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert):** Are there any other questions or comments? Another supplementary question, the Hon. Member for Gander-Twillingate.

**Mr. Baker:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has still not answered the question. It is a key question. It is an important question of Government policy. It is an important question of Opposition policy. It is an important question that the Hon. Member is going to have to answer now or when the campaign is on, as will every person running for the Progressive Conservative Party. She still has not answered the question.

**Miss MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, I do not quite understand the Member reiterating a question which I have answered two or three times. I realize it takes a little longer to get through to him. I have known that over the years, as have others. However, since he has asked about areas such as his part of the country, I will repeat what was said by the Hon. Member for Elgin earlier this morning.

In several parts of Canada young people face a future of almost permanent unemployment. Wage subsidies and employment tax credits will be of little value in these economically depressed regions. In such regions there ought to be programs of community based entrepreneurial development

which would assist individuals and groups wishing to start new businesses to raise money, to cut through red tape, to identify markets, and to train workers. That is what has not been happening and that is what must happen so that people can get permanent jobs.

**Mr. Wise:** Mr. Speaker, I did not have any intention of posing a question to my colleague, the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald). However, in view of the exchange which has taken place, I would like to direct a question to her. Has she had an opportunity to examine the record? I know she is an extremely busy Member. Can she recall that during the nine months when we were in Government we created some 60,000 jobs? That was a creation of 7,000 jobs a month. Would she agree that if we examine the record for the 49 months since this Government was re-elected to office we will see that during that period of time they have lost a total of 300,000 jobs? In the nine months we were in power we created jobs at a rate of 7,000 per month. In the 49 months since this Government has been in office they have lost jobs at a rate of 7,000 a month.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert):** A short response from the Member for Kingston and the Islands.

**Miss MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, that is a very good and valid point which should be made. I hope the Member for Gander-Twillingate takes very strong cognizance of these important figures. In the last four years we have seen a major setback to the labour force of the country. We have still not recovered to the point where those in the employment force are at the level they were at in 1981. That is a tragedy. Those people are unemployed and the young people are still the hardest hit.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert):** The period for questions and comments has ended. For continuing debate, the Hon. Member for Burin-St. George's (Mr. Simmons).

**Hon. Roger Simmons (Burin-St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, I would first like to come to the defence of my good friend and my colleague, the Hon. Member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Baker). He has been in the House for 10 years. They have been 10 vigorous years for him. He has fought like a Trojan and the happy result can be seen throughout Gander-Twillingate. I think it is unfortunate that there should be a suggestion that he has been less than an absolutely thoroughly good Member during that period, particularly in the last few months when he, as have all of us around the country, has had to deal with some difficult issues relating to the employment figures.

I thought I saw one of the more touching scenes in this House a few minutes ago when the very magnanimous and gentlemanly Member for Elgin (Mr. Wise) came to the rescue of the lady from Kingston and the Islands.

**Miss MacDonald:** Member for Kingston and the Islands. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.