

agencies, and the private sector to help develop new and creative child care services.

A very innovative and worth-while project is under-way in Scarborough to introduce private businesses to child care ideas. With the help of a federal grant, the Human Services Organization of Scarborough is holding a series of seminars throughout the city to help interested businesses establish affordable, on-site child care centres.

I applaud the efforts of the Human Services Organization of Scarborough and encourage the Government to continue to fund projects like this, since child care is an investment in Canada's future.

* * *

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

ANNOUNCED EMPLOYEE LAY-OFFS

Ms. Sheila Coppins (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, last summer during the election campaign, or in the summer of 1984, we heard a number of promises, including a promise by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to recognize and respond to the special needs of Atlantic Canada for better transportation to strengthen the economic base of the entire area and to provide jobs with the transportation sector.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, what we have seen is a Government that has allowed Canadian National to do the exact opposite. It has recently announced its intention to lay off indefinitely more than 1,300 workers across the country, as well as to freeze hiring and reduce management and non-union work force. This pronouncement was made after the CN already reduced its staff complement by 1,350 workers since January.

Where are these jobs going to be lost? In Atlantic Canada, Moncton, 185 shop jobs; Montreal, 262 jobs. Where are the promises of the Prime Minister? Where are the promises of the Government to protect jobs in transportation? This Prime Minister and this Government did not believe the promises when they spoke them, and the Canadian people will make sure they realize that in the next election.

* * *

SOCIAL SECURITY

FAMILY ALLOWANCES—SUPPORT FOR FULL INDEXATION

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Last Friday the Ottawa Council for Low-Income Support Services demonstrated on the Hill on behalf of all mothers across Canada to oppose deindexing of family allowances. They said: "The twentieth of the month is baby bonus day. That's the day the cheque arrives, the little bit of money, that is for you, for running shoes, hairdo money or new jeans. For some of us it is the money that will pay for an extra few days of food or keep the phone from being cut off. Thirty-one dollars and twenty seven cents is not a princely sum. If we are lucky it will keep us in Kraft dinners.

S.O. 22

The mothers and children of this country are a resource. We are the future. If we are going to be a strong future we need strong children. Strong women and children need good food and warm clothes. Not much to ask for in a country as wealthy as ours.

I am tired of the suggestion that we don't really need the baby bonus. I'm tired of it being our money they want to cut off every time there is an economy drive. I'm tired of having to prove mothers and children are worth spending money on. I'm tired of hearing how good we've got it.

Do soup kitchens and snowsuit funds show how lucky we are? Millions of women and children in poverty in this country are not having it good. These are the people who will not see their money pegged to rises in the cost of living if this Government has its way.

So we are shouting 'Raise the baby bonus or lower the cost of living. Hands off the family allowance'."

Mr. Speaker: I would advise the Hon. Member that her time has expired.

* * *

THE ECONOMY

REDUCTION IN INTEREST RATES—INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, as you well know, during the last election campaign the main issues were the economy and jobs. Prior to that Canadians had suffered through three years of record high interest rates, bankruptcies, inflation, and unemployment. This month marks the Government's first anniversary in office so it is a good time to review just what has happened to the economy during this past year—the first year of a Progressive Conservative Government.

To begin with, interest rates are down. The Bank of Canada rate, the prime bank rate, and mortgage rates have all fallen by approximately 3 per cent. We now have the lowest borrowing costs in seven years.

● (1410)

The bankruptcy rate has also fallen. Business, individual and farm bankruptcies are down by 12 per cent. Inflation has held steady and during the past year we have experienced the greatest price stability since 1971.

Most important of all, employment is up—up by almost 300,000 jobs which have been created since the last election.

These facts speak for themselves. They may not be news, but they certainly are reality. They demonstrate that the Government has established a climate which has allowed our economy and our country to start growing again.