

Canadian Economy

opportunity to realize some of the economic problems of our regions. To sum up, I must say that the decision of the government to decentralize some departments in our region has very important consequences, and is a matter of urgency, for the simple reason that we will need eventually to recruit young people, and as there is high unemployment among those aged from 18 to 30, this decentralization will allow us to absorb some of these qualified young people who will not have to go to other Canadian cities or other regions to work.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge the government to seriously consider, especially in connection with the textile, footwear and clothing industries, the possible transformation of the Textile and Clothing Board into a permanent commission; also, before issuing an import permit for textile and clothing, the Textile and Clothing Board should advise the government of the possible consequences such permit might have, and finally, some formula should be devised to ensure our manufacturers at least a 75 per cent share of the Canadian market.

Mr. La Salle: That would be fine!

Mr. Pelletier: I am not a financial expert, Mr. Speaker, but I humbly submit that only a very small number of businessmen will be interested in investing in this sector if the government must constantly step in to prevent this or that country from dumping its textiles on the Canadian market, because when businessmen are not quite sure where they stand from a financial point of view, and when they cannot be assured in advance of a market, they find it very difficult to decide whether to invest or not.

● (2122)

[English]

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, may I thank you for giving me an opportunity to take a small part in this debate. I begin by saying, without any hesitation or equivocation whatsoever, that this country is in a mess. Page 20 of today's *Citizen* carries the headline: "Effigy of Trudeau Burned by Unemployed Workers". That is the message which the people of Canada are bringing home to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau).

I want to congratulate the hon. member for Rimouski (Mr. Allard) for moving this motion which does make sense, notwithstanding what the parliamentary secretary from Scarborough West has said. Let me summarize what the four paragraphs of the motion have to say. First, it says "this House deplores that the government", etc. It continues "that the votes allocated by the government to the Canada Works programs are not sufficient"; thirdly, "that no serious action has been taken to reduce interest rates"; and lastly, "that the economic methods now in use are no longer suitable".

The hon. member for Scarborough West (Mr. Martin) must be looking for promotion because he says we are spending an inordinate amount of time on the economy. Mr. Speaker, this is what this nation is all about—a viable, healthy economy, which has been destroyed by the policies of the government.

[Mr. Pelletier.]

That is what we are talking about here. As long as the government proceeds in the direction it has been taking, we will be getting up every other day to strike home.

The Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro), who is sitting opposite, is part and parcel of the agreement whereby the President of Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) almost sold the steel industry down the river. Let me put it this way, Mr. Speaker. It is not a question of spending an inordinate amount of time on anything; this is a very important subject affecting the lives of millions of people.

The parliamentary secretary said that the news was brighter. That is a typical reply from a parliamentary secretary who is looking for promotion. But he did go on to say that there was some little problem with the manufacturing industry. The manufacturing industry is about \$10 billion going on \$11 billion in the hole, and some 200,000 workers are adversely affected. I know the parliamentary secretary would not deliberately mislead the House, and I would not use any such language, but after saying that the manufacturing industry was in trouble, he forgot to point out, as the motion says, that the textile industry is in trouble, that the shoe industry is in trouble, that the clothing industry is in trouble, that the furniture industry is in trouble. Not only that, Mr. Speaker, but the mining industry, the construction industry, the fishing industry, the forest industry, and the tourist industry are all in trouble.

Then the parliamentary secretary had the gall to talk about the Export Development Corporation, in connection with which questions are being raised concerning their pumping money into Venezuela and the United States of America in order to undermine our steel industry.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Nonsense!

Mr. Alexander: The Minister of Labour says "nonsense", but my time is limited, Mr. Speaker. I hear that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is very concerned about what is happening in the nation. Like the great Messiah, he is on his way to look into the problems of the nation and to find solutions. Today's issue of the *Journal* has this headline: "Much Further Ahead; Economic Solution Is Closer—Trudeau". Having been away for two or three days talking to a few premiers, the last being Premier Regan—incidentally, the report blasts him too—all of a sudden the Prime Minister says that an economic solution is closer. The report goes on to say we are going to have a first ministers' conference some time in February.

On July 12 of this year, Mr. Speaker, I thought the need for a first ministers' conference was of such importance that I should bring it home to the Prime Minister. Let me read the first motion on the order paper of that day, to be found at page 7567 of *Hansard*. I said:

Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity related to the unacceptable, frightening and shocking figures on unemployment released this date. Given the fact that, including the hidden jobless, this country now faces an actual unemployment rate of 11.5 per cent, or in other words over 1.3 million Canadians are out of work which in effect costs this country \$17 million a day in lost GNP and \$6