

Mr. Speaker, we must not forget here in Canada, that if we go back 20 years, this includes fourteen years of Liberal government. According to OECD reports since 1984, Canada, in terms of its Gross National Product, now ranks second—not sixteenth—among OECD members, behind Japan. In terms of job creation, Canada ranks first. This means that as far as job creation is concerned, Canada has created more jobs in the past five years than Italy, France and Great Britain combined.

Facts are facts. It is all very well to quote figures, but they must reflect the facts.

The hon. member also referred to training and mentioned that in Canada, 0.5 per cent was budgeted for training, compared with 1 per cent in the United States. I may remind the hon. member of the New Democratic Party that for months, and now nearly a year, Bill C-21, one of our major mechanisms for upgrading the qualifications of the unemployed, has been delayed and in fact blocked by the Senate. When it suits the New Democratic Party, it supports the Senate's outbursts, its strategy, but then it turns around and says the Senate should be abolished. Mr. Speaker, this reminds me of the debate on Meech Lake, when the New Democratic Party said: We are not against Quebec, we are against Meech Lake.

• (1240)

Mr. Nystrom: Not me! I never said that!

Mr. Tremblay (Lotbinière): Possibly because your familiarity with French culture has made you perhaps more sensitive, more aware of what is involved. I was referring to your party.

As for regional disparity, here again, the hon. member quoted the same report for the last twenty years. Once again, we must not forget that during those twenty years, fourteen years of Liberal government did not improve regional disparity. They made it worse, despite all the talk in 1968 by the former Liberal leader, Mr. Trudeau, about justice and a just society. However, despite Mr. Trudeau's electoral platform, we were left with a terrible legacy. On the other hand, since 1984, when this government came to power, we have had two major and extremely effective agreements: the Western Diversification agreement and the agreement with the Atlantic

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provinces, both of which are vitally important economic instruments. And only last week, the House voted on a very important bill, Bill C-44, thanks to this regional agreement.

I think we should be allowed a certain amount of time to make up for the legacy we received from the Liberal party. This cannot be done. I would appreciate hearing what the hon. member for Yorkton—Melville has to say.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, I compared the unemployment rate in our country with that in other countries. I realize that the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has 24 members. However, according to the Economic Council of Canada and Judith Maxwell, they did a study of 16 countries, including France, Switzerland, the United States and so forth, and of the 16 countries they analyzed—this is on page 40 of Judith Maxwell's report—Canada ranks fifteenth in terms of the highest unemployment rate. The study was done during the 70s and 80s. I don't have the figures for the last six years. However, the study discusses structural problems in this country. Maxwell also refers to the problems of the present government under Mr. Wilson and Mr. Mulroney, who have spent too much time fighting inflation. She said just that: we have spent too much time fighting inflation. As a result, we now have an unemployment rate that is still climbing. If we look at the latest figures, the unemployment rate in Canada is now over 8 per cent. In this country there are still over one million people out of work.

They drew a comparison with many other countries such as Switzerland, Japan and Norway, whose inflation rate is similar to Canada's, but these countries also have a job creation policy, and their unemployment rate is about 2, 3 or 4 per cent, not even half the unemployment rate here in Canada. Those countries have a system under which there is co-operation between the government and its economic partners.

Mr. Speaker, I recommend that my Conservative friends read very carefully the report by Judith Maxwell and the Economic Council of Canada, and her recommendations and proposals for dealing with the economy. She is against the present policies of the federal government.