

consulted about the cancellation of these projects which will mean the cancellation of jobs in their respective communities?

We learned last night that certain programs of the National Research Council are going to be cancelled. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, were the scientists affected, young and old, and the union which represents the scientists in the Public Service, consulted about the cancellation of important, long-term, far-reaching research projects? Last night we learned about unemployment insurance premiums, Mr. Speaker. Were the employers and the workers consulted about the increase in premiums by the Government? We learned about cuts of some \$200 million in the Industrial Incentives Program. I ask, Mr. Speaker, whether the Government consulted industry about the desirability of cutting these programs, particularly in regions that are not at the centre of our economy.

We learned last night about cutbacks to essential train and ferry services, Mr. Speaker. I ask you, was the travelling public in those regions consulted? We learned that Canadians will have to face higher prices at the pumps. Was there consultation with the Canadian public on this increase and the timing of the increase?

We learned last night about cutbacks in social housing and housing rehabilitation programs. These initiatives create jobs in their respective communities and help Canadians reduce their heating costs. I ask the Government whether it consulted with the housing industry. Did the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret) consult with them? This is the theme of the Speech from the Throne. Are they practising what they are preaching?

Were the fishermen consulted about the cutbacks on export promotion and fisheries development programs? We learned about cuts in the cultural sector through the Canada Council. Was the artistic community consulted by the Minister or those who are absent at the present time about the cutbacks in art programs which somehow represent an income to our artistic community from coast to coast, be they writers, sculptors, poets, musicians or the like?

What a sham of consultation, Mr. Speaker. Here you see the reality. We and the Canadian public are being treated to a display of hypocrisy. Consultation versus unilateral action on the part of the Government, with no consultation at all, was proclaimed as the main theme of the Speech from the Throne.

We were also treated to that beautiful trick last night, that great demagogic gesture of a salary cut imposed on Ministers. They have a job. They know they will have it until the next election and not beyond that, we know that. As a great gesture to Canadians who are going to lose their jobs they introduced this magnificent salary cut. We congratulate those heroes for having cut \$3,000 off a salary of \$100,000. I congratulate the President of the Treasury Board for his courage in light of what he has done by eliminating jobs for tens of thousands of students who next summer will have to knock at his door and ask him where they should go to find jobs. Where will they go? Next summer, or next year, or perhaps even beginning next month, there will be some 126,000 less jobs. Or perhaps the

Government will tell us the exact number of people who will be affected by the cuts last night.

● (1250)

Therefore, I must conclude that it only took four days for the Tory Government to show to the House and the country its ugly face. Through its own action it has destroyed the credibility in the consultative process which it proclaimed in the Speech from the Throne. The good news this morning that Canadians found 50,000 more jobs last month has been wiped out by the announcement of last night. We have been left with a negative result. Over the weekend Canadians will be agonizing at home with their families about whether they will have a job next year, be they civil servants, construction workers, fishermen or workers in any sector that will be affected by these measures.

Cuts are not made in a vacuum. A program cannot be cut in abstract terms because it eliminates jobs. This is what the Government does not want to realize or admit.

We say that the approach taken by the Government on deficit cutting is wrong. Let me explain why. The deficit can be cut in two ways. The Tories are doing it by withdrawing from the economy and partially closing down Canada during the winter, until next spring. That is what the Government is saying. It says that it must think and consult on the one hand, but then it proceeds without consultation. It is basically telling Canadians to consult with the Government next spring and it will talk business again.

The other method of cutting the deficit is by generating real growth, supporting the jobs that have been created so far and enabling Canadians to maintain the purchasing power that permits them to pay taxes, allowing them to generate revenue for the state and pay their bills. It should not be done by adding their names to the unemployment rolls.

Since we are in debate, let us assume for one moment that the Tory approach is the right approach. There is a profound contradiction when the Minister says on the one hand that he wants to energize the private sector, while at the same time he cuts \$200 million from the Industrial Incentives Program, 40 million from the Job Training Program and \$250 million from the Exploration Assistance Program in the oil and gas industry. How can those measures energize the private sector?

As Liberals, we do not believe that this is the right policy. If one wants to energize the private sector, one does not pull the rug from under it as the Minister of Finance and his colleagues are proposing. The Conservative Government approach to deficit cutting is wrong. Instead of cutting jobs it should provide incentives for expansion and job creation. That is the sensitive and positive approach that does not cause hardships for students next summer, hardships on people who have a job in the Public Service or those who are looking to a job in the private sector as a result of federal Government initiatives.

I believe that Canadians elected a majority government on September 4 with the understanding that all segments of society would be represented and protected. I believe the