

*The Address—Mr. Allmand*

**Mr. Allmand:** Madam Speaker, if I had had unlimited time, as did the leaders of the Parties, I could have gone on for hours giving example after example of how the regions have been ignored. The Prime Minister boasted this morning about how he won the election, but we have to remind him again and again that he only got the majority of votes in two out of ten provinces. And if one looks at Atlantic Canada, the Liberal Party won the overwhelming number of votes and seats there. If we look at other parts of the country that are underdeveloped economically, such as northern Ontario, the Government did not win the seats there. In the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, the Government did not win a seat.

The regions of this country that have been ignored sent a message to the Government. You did not win the popular vote. Madam Speaker, I hope they keep in mind, when they are about to introduce some of these programs that they are thinking about in Cabinet—to cut programs—that they remember that their program was not accepted by a majority of voters in this country. I think our leader referred to it yesterday. I think 56 per cent of the electorate rejected the Government and the Government's programs. They only won a majority of votes in two provinces, Quebec and Alberta. So they do not have a total mandate, and they should keep that in mind. What is amusing, Madam Speaker, is that they do not want to think about that, but if the people who are harping over there now—and a lot of them were not here between 1980 and 1984—but if they look at the speeches that the Tories made in this House between 1980 and 1984 when such things as the National Energy Program were taking place, they were saying you do not have a mandate, you have no majority in Alberta, despite the fact that we had the majority in Parliament and we thought it was the right thing to do. So be consistent.

I guess I am asking too much when I am asking Tories to be consistent.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to ask my colleague who has just spoken if he noted in the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) remarks this morning that the Prime Minister was desperately trying to downplay all the special interest money that was thrown into the election within the last 10 days before election day, and he mentioned the regions this morning again, but he was very convenient in leaving out eastern Ontario where there is no regional development at all.

In relation to the Prime Minister's remarks, he stated that we were accusing them of buying the election. We were not doing that—

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** Order. I would think that the Hon. Member would have questions on his colleague's speech and not on the preceding intervention in the House.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, but the fact that they were intertwined, it is rather difficult to separate them.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hopkins:** Madam Speaker, it is obvious that they are agreeing with me across the way.

The Hon. Member knows the regions of Canada very well, and regional development programs. He also knows the employment situation in Canada very well.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hopkins:** Does he realize that there are regions of this country that do not have accurate unemployment figures because they are averaged in with more prosperous areas in StatsCanada? I wonder if the Hon. Member would comment on that because it is very relative to what he was saying about unemployment and about regions left out in Canada.

**Mr. Allmand:** Well, Madam Speaker, the statistics on employment are rather confusing. A lot of Canadians do not realize that the statistics are not accumulated by simply counting the unemployed, but they are done through a survey system. This system, of course, has a tendency to ignore the less populated areas. Although we get the rates in the populated area, the surveys are not as complete. For example, one thing that in my opinion distorts the figures is that if you work one hour a week, you are counted as employed.

There are a lot of other things. The way they count people out of the labour force and therefore unemployed is another bit of distortion. But your original question as to the Prime Minister's attempt to make the situation sound much rosier than it is really is typical of the Prime Minister and a Conservative Government who are expert in the politics of rhetoric, experts in posturing, experts in smokescreens.

While I was happy with what the Prime Minister said to me on December 19, I became quickly disenchanted when he allowed his Secretary of State responsible for Official Languages to say exactly the opposite thing in French in Quebec and give the impression that he was doing one thing for Anglophones and linguistic minori-