

We were instrumental in having agriculture placed on the agenda of the Tokyo Economic Summit and helped to secure unanimous agreement on addressing subsidies in the new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

The Rural Transition Program has addressed the needs of those farmers who, through circumstance or choice, have decided to seek other occupations by providing counselling, training, and financial assistance during that transition period. We are providing farmers with the real substantial assistance they need to survive difficult times.

The Government's record is there for all to see. The question which begs to be asked is: Are Canadians better off today than they were two years ago? The record shows that the answer is a loud, unequivocal yes. Much still remains to be done, and I am confident that the objectives and directions set out in the Throne Speech, together with the commitment and dedication to accomplish them, will provide a better and brighter tomorrow for all Canadians.

**Mr. Redway:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member quite rightly referred to a number of the accomplishments of the Government since it took office in September, 1984. In particular he referred to the appointments which have been made in respect of women. He compared the appointments made by the present Government with the appointments made by the past Government. He indicated that the past Government had appointed women to about 15 per cent of the available positions, whereas in two years the present Government has appointed 25 per cent.

• (1710)

I noted as well that he spoke about the multicultural aspect of his riding. I know he is most concerned about multicultural appointments. He is as well aware as I and other Members of the House are of the fact that about 30 per cent of the total population of this country come from non-Anglophone or Francophone backgrounds. I wonder if he could tell us whether he has any information concerning the appointment of people from the non-Anglophone or Francophone communities made by this present Government compared with those made by the former Government.

**Mr. Witer:** Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for the question. The latest information we have is slightly outdated, being three months old, but as of June the appointments to the various boards and commissions made by this Government from third language group candidates is 13.6 per cent. That is an increase in total numbers of 50 per cent over those made by the previous Government. We are going in the right direction but we have a long way to go to get to that 33 per cent.

[Translation]

**Mr. Robichaud:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by congratulating my hon. friend from Parkdale—High Park (M. Witer) on his speech and especially that part of it that was in French. I think he deserves to be congratulated on the effort he made, and I say: Keep up the good work. In his speech, he

*The Address—Mr. Witer*

mentioned that in his riding, the unemployment rate was one half the national average.

In New Brunswick, the unemployment rate is 15 per cent. Did I understand correctly that he said that in either case, the same effort should be made, that we should not do more for New Brunswick, where the rate is 15 per cent and in his riding where the rate is below 5 per cent? Did I understand correctly?

[English]

**Mr. Witer:** Mr. Speaker, it is precisely because of the inequities which exist in this country that this Government made a very special effort for Atlantic Canada. May I also bring to the attention of my hon. friend that the unemployment rate of 4.7 per cent in my riding has occurred since the coming to power of the Conservative Government. Since 1984, investment in this country has increased by something like \$11 billion. Demand for building permits in the Metropolitan Toronto area has increased by something like 52 per cent. We simply do not have enough bricklayers, electricians and plumbers to fill the demand. We are grateful for the low unemployment rate we have but we can do better. We are also grateful for the economic conditions created by the policies of this Government.

[Translation]

**Mr. Robichaud:** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

How is it that we in New Brunswick did not see the development and everything you just described which happened in your riding? Has the Government forgotten Canada's remote areas and doesn't it have a regional development policy, in which case that explains why the unemployment rate has remained unacceptably high in our area?

[English]

**Mr. Witer:** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member would agree with me that the objective of this Government is to have full and complete employment. It has happened in the Toronto area, not because of Government intervention but because of free market forces. We are well aware that those market forces may not create the needed jobs in all regions of Canada and that is why we redirect government assistance and programs precisely to those areas that need the assistance. I would be very happy to compare the assistance that goes to Atlantic Canada with that which may go to the Metropolitan Toronto area. I think the Hon. Member will find there is no comparison. His area would be significantly higher in the government programs and funds it receives than those in the Metropolitan Toronto area.

**Ms. Copps:** Mr. Speaker, I have just heard the Hon. Member for Parkdale—High Park (Mr. Witer) say that, on the one hand, his Government, since it was elected, is responsible for the reduction in unemployment. In the same breath he says it has nothing to do with the Government, it is market forces. I wonder if he can clarify that contradiction.