

Canadians would be unemployed. It would have seen that 133,000 Canadians would be losing their jobs in four short weeks from mid-November to mid-December. It would have seen that the ranks of the unemployed would be swollen by 162,000 in the same short period from mid-November to mid-December, the latest period for which we have figures. It would have seen 28,000 people lose their jobs in the Atlantic provinces in the same period. That is about 1,000 people a day, Mr. Speaker, with the ranks of the unemployed in that area swollen from 42,000 to 54,000 and the labour force reduced by 16,000, about 4,000 a week, through emigration from the Atlantic provinces because of total despair.

The government would also have seen that this was not a world-wide condition brought on by unknown forces affecting all countries alike disastrously, as was the case during the great depression of the thirties. It would have seen full employment in such diverse countries as Japan, South Africa, the United Kingdom, West Germany and many others, and in contrast would have seen unemployment growing at a disastrous rate in Canada. It should have divined that Canada was affected by some unique misfortune, and found that that unique misfortune likely was its own policies.

What did the government do in this situation, Mr. Speaker? Did it listen to suggestions from the business community? No. Did it seek the advice and guidance of its own supporters? Apparently not. Did it show anything but disdain and contempt for warnings repeatedly offered by all opposition parties? Again, the answer is no. Did it show any humanitarian attitude, or any humanity for those who were shortly to be unemployed? Again, the answer is no.

Only yesterday in this debate the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) said:

It takes courage sometimes to create unemployment. We have created unemployment in the textile industry and we will probably create it temporarily in other industries as we automate and as we rationalize these industries.

It does not take courage, Mr. Speaker, to create unemployment. It takes callous incompetence.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. MacLean: The Minister of Finance, and the government generally, have made a great deal about the fact that the figures we quote have not been seasonally adjusted. The experience of the unemployed people in my constituency is that that they do not find themselves any better off after they have been seasonally adjusted.

What did the government do, Mr. Speaker? It argued with irrefutable logic from false premises, and arrived irresistably at the wrong conclusions. What should the government have done? There are a number of things it should have done in this situation. It could have reduced or eliminated the surtax, and given some short-term tax relief which would have stimulated the economy. It could have eliminated part or all of the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials. It could have instituted an effective winter works program. As a humane move, it could also have taken some immediate steps to extend temporarily

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unemployment benefits to many who are now out in the cold. But, Mr. Speaker, all these are short-term programs. What about medium and long-range action?

It is my belief that the government must resist, contain and eventually reverse certain forces which, if allowed to continue, can only lead us to disaster. One of these forces is that flowing from the government's monetary policies, which is leading the Canadian people deeper and deeper into debt both for consumer goods and for government at all levels, municipal, provincial and federal. As a people, we cannot continue to go everlastingly deeper in debt at an ever-increasing rate. The federal debt is increasing relentlessly, and there is an insatiable appetite for borrowing money, with the result that interest rates are unconscionably high. Between the increasing cost of money and the increasing debt of Canada, we are now in the position where the Canadian taxpayer is paying more than \$4 million a day in carrying charges on the national debt, not to mention the debts of the provinces and taxpayers' personal debts. The federal government must set an example of better financial management than that. Surely, Canadians deserve a better fate than to live life from the cradle to the grave in arrears.

Second, Mr. Speaker, the government must lead in a progressive approach to the objective of eliminating sales tax on consumer goods where it in any way increases the costs of the basic essentials, shelter, food and clothing. The cost of living cannot be anything but high when in many cases it is commonplace for the combined federal and provincial sales tax to make up 18 per cent, or an even higher percentage, of the total price of an article. We, as a country, must strive for higher productivity in order to be competitive, and the government has a responsibility in this field. It must lead the way. Labour and management must realize that they are in the same boat. They are a partnership whether they like it or not, and are not adversaries. Together, they must develop a common objective of successful competition, in world markets.

We must develop a tax structure that will encourage profit sharing by companies with their employees. Employees should have an opportunity to have some direct financial interest in the success of the company for which they work, to the benefit of the employees, of the company and of the country as a whole. Conversely, the attitude of employers, especially in large companies, should be that their employees are going to seek out a life career with their companies, that together they are in a life partnership for their mutual benefit. I know that profit sharing with employees is practiced in Canada by a few companies. It has worked in other places, with striking success. An added advantage would be that Canadians would be encouraged to invest in Canada. I believe that Canadians should be as willing to invest in Canada as Americans are. After all, it is our country. We must learn from other countries, from their successes and from their failures. For example, we have much to learn from the Japanese. They have the highest growth rate in gross national product in the world. Over the past decade the annual average rate of growth of the Japanese gross national product, in real terms and with full employment,