

### Supply

bridge, Alcan and the rest of them, or those who are elected with the confidence and support of the Canadian people?

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce stated in a pompous way that we cannot tell them anything. We are to be the recipients of their actions. In so doing, we have allowed another 400 workers to become unemployed, in addition to a lack of productivity in that area. In other words, what we had in St. Lawrence was a strike by capital. Capital refused to go to work in St. Lawrence.

I could be sensitive about the feelings of those people and their helplessness in that situation, about the fact that they could not come to grips with the problem. All they got from the government, which was elected by and has the mandate of the people, was that "There is nothing we can do."

The week before last I visited Vancouver, British Columbia. I arrived on a Thursday evening. On the Friday morning the Grand Duke mine announced it would be closing in Stewart, B.C., laying off 400 workers. The mine owners said they were down to second grade copper ore which was not economical to mine and, therefore, they were closing the mine.

There again we have the people of a particular community helpless in regard to coming to grips with a very serious problem. We sent some of our miners to the Grand Duke years ago. When we had layoffs in 1972, the miners went to Grand Duke. When they returned on holidays, they stated they were making a pile of money. What they were doing was high-grading the ore in the Stewart mine. As a result, today that mine has second grade copper which the company says it is uneconomical to mine.

There is also the situation in the Sudbury basin, my area. On February 13, 3,400 jobs went down the tube. The government was not given previous notice of the lay-offs. This government was told at midnight, October 20, the day the announcement was made. We were told that nickel markets were soft, the companies could not sell the nickel and they were therefore forced to lay-off workers. As a result, they intended to reduce the work force from 13,000 to 10,000. Those jobs have been lost. However, I now understand the company is running up overtime on production. Production levels are at the same height as they were prior to the lay-off notice.

Last week the treasurer of Ontario, D'Arcy McKeough, brought in a budget. He stated that Falconbridge and Inco would be permitted to write off their European offshore operations against taxable income in Ontario. How that will create jobs in the Sudbury basin, I do not know.

The Conservatives in this chamber say that things will be different under a Tory leadership and a Tory government. They had an opportunity to show leadership in the province of Ontario. We have not seen any results from that.

Jobs were lost in the Sudbury basin, but overtime is piling up and production levels are remaining the same. At the time of the announcement of the lay-offs, we kept pushing the government to stockpile nickel. The government said it could not interfere in the market place and, if nickel was not selling,

[Mr. Rodriguez.]

there was no use stockpiling it. Therefore, the workers were laid off. Those are the realities the people of this country experience every day.

While in Windsor last week I heard rumours about the possible closing of the truck plant there. At eleven o'clock this morning, Chrysler Corporation announced it would be closing its truck plant and moving to Jefferson in the United States. They are going to build a plant and manufacture the trucks there. Therefore 800 jobs in the Windsor area will be going down the drain.

Today I questioned the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce about this. All I could get from him was that the government was studying the situation and that it could not tell the corporations what to do. That is the kind of reaction that Canadians from coast to coast get from this government. These are the problems with which they have to deal.

In these dying days of this parliament, the government brings forward the shell game of figures. The people of this country are looking to parliament for some action to solve the problems they face. The main problem that faces them, eroding their confidence and their livelihood, is that of unemployment.

When I first came to Canada I had the impression that the Tories were different from the Liberals. One thing that has been brought home to me in the past 21 or 22 years I have been here is that there really is no difference in their philosophies and approaches to the economy.

When the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) brought in his mini-budget last fall, he stated that we were looking to the private sector to create the jobs in this country. He stated that the government must not involve itself in the operation of the economy, that it should sit on the sidelines and stage. It has been doing a lot of staging. It has fixed the acoustics, put in the proper lighting and a proper background. However, the jobs are not being created. That is the problem.

What the government has been doing is handing out tax concessions. It forgave \$17½ million in duties to Chrysler Corporation which should have been paid under the auto pact agreement. Under Bill C-11 which was passed last fall, \$10 million was given to Inco. Alcan received \$11 million last fall. Inco was allowed to defer \$378 million in taxes, in effect an interest free loan. Alcan was allowed to defer \$180 million in taxes, again an interest free loan. Between Guatemala and Indonesia it was some \$17 million in low interest loans—we do not know the rate exactly but it is below 6 per cent. So Inco is putting one billion dollars into developing ores in Indonesia and \$233 million in Guatemala.

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Falconbridge, through its parent company, MacIntyre Mines, and its parent company, Superior Oil of Texas, along with Noranda, is putting a billion dollars into Chile for the strip mining of copper. I am always impressed by the patriotism of the multi-national corporations. I recall the days the AIB was brought into being. When the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) two or three years ago announced one Thanksgiving