

S.O. 21

colleague said earlier, this plant will represent an investment of \$514 million and create 2,775 high tech jobs. The Canadian Government will contribute \$165.2 million or 60 per cent of total government subsidies.

Bell Textron will create a new Canadian company that will build and run a plant covering 27,000 square metres in the Mirabel industrial park. The plant will start manufacturing helicopters in 1985. The Canadian Government will invest another \$100 million in the manufacture of helicopter engines at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft of Canada in Longueuil. Together, these two projects will create 3,775 high tech jobs, in addition to considerable economic spin-offs for the greater Montreal area and neighbouring counties.

Through these subsidies, the Canadian Government is demonstrating the importance of maintaining and developing expertise in the Quebec aerospace industry. Job creation is the Government's foremost priority, and I think this proves once again that it has not forgotten the Mirabel area.

Madam Speaker: Order! The Hon. Member's time has expired.

* * *

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

CONSEQUENCES OF GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, the Government announced last Friday that the unemployment rate was declining. That was good news. However, good news sometimes covers up the reality of the situation.

I would like to bring to the attention of the House that there were 499,000 more unemployed Canadians last month than were unemployed on the day that the Liberal Government took office in 1980. That is one-half million more unemployed Canadians as a direct consequence of government economic policy.

We have heard statements in the House about public expenditures for huge signs to be put on buildings that are make-work projects. While that is good news for the few Canadians who get to work on those projects, it is Government economic policy over all that has thrown an additional one-half million Canadians out of work in the last three and a half years. It is time for all Members of this Chamber to consider Government economic policy and examine whether a proposed change in policy will have a positive or negative impact on the labour force.

When the Minister stands outside the Chamber and announces he will pinpoint the new job locations in the future, we are wise to remember—

Madam Speaker: Order.

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

INCREASED TOLLS—COST TO WESTERN GRAIN PRODUCERS

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise the problem created by legislated increases to costs. I am speaking of the proposed increases to St. Lawrence Seaway tolls. Just over half of western Canadian grain goes through the St. Lawrence Seaway. The tolls are set by the federal Government through law. This year they averaged more than \$1.60 per tonne, and are paid in full by the western grain producers. Last year's toll cost western grain producers just over \$24 million. These increases have been ongoing from the period 1977 to 1980 when the tolls increased by just over 100 per cent. In the last two years, notwithstanding the six and five guidelines, the increases were a total of 28 per cent in the two years.

Through an Act of Parliament the Government is required to recover all operating costs regardless of traffic conditions. I suggest that when considering these traffic conditions we should take into account that grain traffic has increased but the rest of the traffic through the Seaway has declined abysmally to the point where the formula will require a large increase in grain tolls even though the Seaway is well maintained and has shown a real cost decline per unit of about 12 per cent over the last two years.

I submit that an increase is unfair and uncalled for in light of current economics, and that the whole process should be reviewed.

* * *

[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS

HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN GASPÉ REGION OF QUEBEC

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Madam Speaker, on February 7 of this year, I said the following in the House: "If the situation continues, the entire Gaspé area is heading for an economic and social catastrophe in 1983". Today, Madam Speaker, I would like to talk about that situation. It is often said that where there is a will, there is a way. However, when the decision-making power is in the hands of Government, what are people going to do, when they have been waiting for years and years? Something had to give, and it finally did last week at Grande-Vallée, which is typical of the situation in the Gaspé area, and especially in the riding of Gaspé which is now in a very serious economic slump. Four sawmills are shut down, the newsprint industry in Chandler and the copper mine in Murdochville are operating at a fraction of their capacity, the fishing season was one of the worst we ever had and the tourism industry is only seasonal. Elected representatives and organizations that are concerned about the region's economic development have submitted briefs to government authorities and have even suggested solutions, but all this is taking a very long time. The people have no choice but to demonstrate