

Job Creation

community and help those who are confined at home. The sound of a friendly voice on the telephone every day and the assurance that they have a friend to call in case of need is very reassuring for the older members of every community. During the first year of the project, the CCSP will provide \$11,814 to employ one person full time. Since the planned activities are designed to produce revenues, the YM-YWCA expects to keep the project employee on a permanent basis. In total, 33 projects amounting to \$723,000 have been financed under the CCSP to support services for older people.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of my speech, I mentioned the need to specify whether we are speaking about temporary or permanent lay-offs. I maintain that this must be clarified because we have to look further than statistics.

Yes, it is important to obtain statistics on a sector of the economy, and figures are supposed to give a true picture of the situation, but the hard facts are, right now people are unemployed. This government has been innovative in its approach to job creation. It has become involved in the community through programs such as the Canada Community Services Projects, in order to serve Canadians in their own communities. When I hear the opposition accuse the government of lacking initiative, I realize how important it is to talk about what we are doing. What is more significant yet is the fact that although columns of figures may be useful, the people represented by these figures and their real situation in life are at least equally important. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that the Canada Community Services Projects are doing excellent work by going beyond the statistics.

● (2140)

[English]

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, in the few minutes left to me this evening I would like to begin by replying to some of the earlier comments made by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) who spoke this afternoon. The minister was obviously in some anguish and very hurt that we in this corner of the House had not yet come forward to say "thank you" to the government for closing some of the loopholes in our taxation system, an action of which that minister was obviously proud.

Quite frankly, some of us may have wanted to say thank you but the government has been pulling the plug out of those loopholes so quickly, two of them in four days, that there was no time to say thank you. We are beginning to be thankful that this budget debate can only go on for six days or so because if it went on any longer, the government might manage to pull the plugs out of all of the loopholes and we would be left with that unholy mess of a taxation system with all its inequities, with which we have had to suffer for many years. It is still full of inequities and it appears that the government is determined to reintroduce some of those inequities which they attempted to remove a few days ago.

As I said, if we had time to say thank you, we might have said it, but we do not know if there will be anything left to be

thankful for. Certainly there are hundreds of thousands of Canadians out of work, many as a result of permanent shut-downs, particularly in my industry, the forest industry, who have nothing to be thankful to the government for.

In a recent newspaper column in my constituency of Kootenay West, there is an article in the *Kootenay Reporter* called "Rest in Peace, Hadikin Lumber 1952-1981". This article does give a picture of what is happening and reflects not only on their interest rate policy and market problems but also on the devastating situation we are facing in this country because government and industry have not done a job to ensure there will be enough trees to cut to provide even continued production on past bases, let alone meet the hoped for expansion in that industry which could take place and provide additional jobs in the years to come.

The article starts off:

Some people came in cars, pickups, chartered buses and even chartered flights to witness and take part in one of the most unusual auctions to be held in the Kootenays.

An entire sawmill was up for bids.

This was October, 1981.

The new owners of Hadikin's sawmill in Brilliant had put the entire contents and buildings of the mill up for public auction.

It attracted the curious and the serious. The serious were easily identified by their numbered bidding cards in hand and by the orange hats passed out to each registered bidder.

There was an odd almost festive atmosphere on the mill site as throngs of people, sipping coffee and munching doughnuts milled about while the engines of various trucks, skidders and loaders roared around them. Potential bidders peered under hoods and manipulated the controls as they searched for the best buy.

A few steps away from this commotion, the mill sat, strangely devoid of the lumber, sawdust, and clutter normally found in a sawmill. A few people, driven by curiosity or with an eye toward an investment, clambered up and down steps and ladders, around the trim saws, the edger, the debarker and over infed tables whose chains a very short while ago carried a steady flow of lumber.

Numbered yellow tags hung from chains, motors, saws, even shelving and the building itself.

It was hard to imagine the various integrated components of a functioning sawmill being reduced to a mere number on the auctioneer's list. It was even more difficult to comprehend the livelihood of some 75 former employees disappearing in such a piecemeal fashion.

That presents quite a picture, and I take no glee from it, in spite of the parsimonious ramblings of some of the hon. members opposite a few minutes ago. There is no glee for me in watching my neighbours, my constituents and my fellow workmates find themselves too old to work, too young to die and out at 58 after working 30 years in an operation along with many of their neighbours. Many of the people are Russian Doukhobors, and they will have a very difficult time—especially the older ones—attempting to obtain jobs anywhere because the illiteracy rate in that area is one of the highest in the country because of its ethnic make-up. The Minister of Employment and Immigration should pay some attention to this kind of thing because there is a job to be done within his department to ensure that we lift illiteracy levels, as one of my colleagues said just a few days ago in the House. That is another problem we have.