

Canadians want opportunities. Canadians want to get back to work. Why does the government continue with trickle down economics, the hands off, do nothing approach when there are millions of Canadians looking for opportunities. They are eager to put the Canadian economy back on its feet.

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Madam Speaker, I agree with the hon. member that unemployment is unacceptably high. It is unacceptably high in other countries as well. The OECD ministers of finance and international trade discussed that this week at the OECD meeting. There is no disagreement on that.

The Liberal Party's idea of boosting employment is to take money and throw it at part-time, make-work projects. That is that party's policy. It has a policy where it wants the federal, provincial and municipal governments to borrow this money and throw it at part-time work to provide 10,000 or 15,000 jobs. That is not the answer to the problems we are experiencing.

People want full-time, meaningful jobs. The importance of that is to get the basics in place, which we have. We are coming out of a serious recession. Jobs will follow. The projections are that Canada will lead in employment and economic growth over the next two years. That is very important.

I have no argument with my hon. friend that unemployment is a very serious problem. However there are different ways of tackling it.

The hon. member wants this government and the people of Canada to borrow more and to throw it at make-work projects. That is their idea of stimulating the economy. It did not work in the 1980s and it will not work today.

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): Madam Speaker, what this member and this party want is that the government exercise its role, a caring role, to put the unemployed back to work. We want the government to give an opportunity to young people to finish their schooling.

The hon. minister speaks about building a strong economy based on full-time jobs. Our economy lost 78,000 full-time jobs. They were replaced by 77,000 part-time jobs.

Oral Questions

Is the minister's vision of Canada one of a jobless recovery and a part-time economy?

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Madam Speaker, no it is not.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister.

I have been at farm meetings where the Prime Minister has spelled out very firmly his support of supply management and single desk marketing agencies. I listened to the minister of trade say a week or two ago that that was still the policy of the government.

Yesterday the Minister of Agriculture announced what he calls a dual marketing system for barley which seriously undermines the single desk capabilities of the Canadian Wheat Board.

Can the minister explain why this change in policy?

• (1125)

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Unlike the New Democratic Party, the Progressive Conservative Party makes changes where changes are necessary, important and go with the changing times in the world today. The NDP are stuck way back in the past. It will always stay in the past because of those attitudes.

The minister announced yesterday that beginning on August 1 western barley producers can choose between marketing their feed and malt barley in Canada and the United States either through the Canadian Wheat Board or privately. The Canadian Wheat Board maintains the jurisdiction of barley marketing outside of North America. That gives a choice.

The hon. member stands up here trying to convince Canadians that this will be the downfall of the Canadian Wheat Board. I would like to point out to my hon. friend that barley sales from the Canadian Wheat Board account for only 1.2 per cent of the total sales.

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Madam Speaker, the government does not seem to have paid any attention to the Canadian maltsters. That is one of the few processing industries which is still Canadian owned.