

Job Creation

I say to the few who are listening to my remarks here today that this is a challenge to all of us who want to see some freedom survive in our economic climate and market. I believe there has to be more effort by some to work as hard as some of us here work on that issue.

It is true that the workers of Canada are probably facing the most serious situation we have had since 1929 and 1930. There are a few of us here, including Mr. Speaker, who have lived through those days and years. At that time we were right back down to basics and we saw the tragedies of those times in terms of the human condition. We came out of a war and restructured a bright and beautiful vision in this country of Canada.

I was talking yesterday to a son of a Portuguese immigrant whose father arrived here penniless and worked through menial labour on farms and other jobs, probably worked six months a year and sweated and saved. He had a dream for his children whom he left behind in Portugal, and eventually he was able to bring his family to Canada through his sweat, labour and tears.

The family of that Portuguese immigrant have the same work ethic today as their father had and they have the same basic values. They are successful and well established in Canada today. They saw Canada as a dream, they came here and worked hard and created jobs and were always able to meet the payrolls they created.

Last night, the son of that Portuguese immigrant said: "Mr. Huntington, what is happening in this country today is what happened to my father in his homeland". The lack of incentive to work and produce, to grow a crop and the ability to take it to market, even a market in which the government was the receiver of the produce, caused that family to sell their farm and move, in poverty, to this new land where they had a dream. It was a dream which at least gave them the chance to break out of the chains of uniformity and egalitarianism.

We are dealing with that again today. What I find difficult about this situation is that the government, supported by the New Democratic Party, is doing everything it can to inhibit and stop a work-creating environment in Canada. One of the worst tragedies which I think has happened since I have been in this House is the attitude the government had toward an issue such as the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. It has interfered, and the New Democratic Party forces have actively interfered in all the megaprojects we have had before us. If it is going to speak of an industrial strategy, it should not want to create massive shortages which would cause massive inflation. If it is going to talk about an industrial strategy, it has to talk about a plan for the use of human resources, capital and industrial resources which we have for the delivery of goods and services to the world marketplace as well as our own domestic marketplace.

By being energy self-sufficient by the year 1990, we had an opportunity to have full employment in this country. Instead,

government policies have led this country to have almost a million, and perhaps over a million, if we can understand these statistics, unemployed. This is a national shame and a national tragedy. It hangs heavy on my head that my efforts in this House have failed to bring about a conscious realization of what the government has been doing to this country during the last decade.

Full employment cannot be created unless there is a stable taxation environment. It is only through a stable taxation environment that a decision-making base can be created at large in this country. The innovators, the risk takers, the engineers, the architects and the tradesmen all depend on a stable taxation environment. The labour forces which are being laid off—according to newspaper articles of today and yesterday—also depend on a stable taxation environment in order to deliver a stable decision-making base for the industry and the marketplace in Canada.

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Too much of our effort has been directed away from addressing the economic requirements of this era. We are wasting very valuable time around this place because of our refusal to get down to the things that count and that will protect and create jobs. The other day in this House—after some considerable thought because I do not like to be guilty of overstatements—I had to open up and say that, because of government policies which interfere with the heritage we in this country have in terms of work and fulfilling our dreams about our own homes and being constructively and effectively employed, we have deliberately created impediments to the population which has been coming out of our schools, trade schools and universities.

You cannot impose a socialist state from the top down. History has told us that. There has been death, carnage and revolution of the worst type whenever that has been tried. Some such empires have lived for a short time but, if we are to create a socialist state—and that is what we are doing in this country—

Mr. Nielsen: "They" are.

Mr. Huntington: Yes, they are, not me. The government is. If we are to create a socialist state in this country, we cannot do it by having people fully and gainfully employed and working, achieving, buying, creating property and serving their dreams and goals. Because a people at work achieving goals and dreams is a happy and contented people. The opportunities have been too obvious for that to be our rightful aim and goal and our rightful heritage. The opportunities have been there, but this Liberal government has done everything it could to interfere with that progress.

We have massive unemployment today and it will accumulate. It is like a pack of dominoes tipping over and falling all the way to the end. Things are triggering other things today. Inventories are not moving. Retail sales are down. High interest costs have sucked the profits out of industries all across Canada, from manufacturing to secondary and tertiary distri-