

*Supply*

What does that do in the short term? I realize what I am talking about here are the long-term, fundamental economic principles by which the Canadian economy can grow and prosper and by which Canadians now and in the future will have excellent solid employment in good high-skilled, high-wage jobs. That is where we are going. What do we do in the short term? Obviously in the short term there is a role for government to participate.

We have the SEED grants which assist our students. We would love to have three times as many. I would have no trouble at all this coming summer using a budget in my own constituency in the South Shore if the Department of Employment and Immigration had a budget three to four times the SEED grants. We would be able to find young people anxious and ready to take advantage of it. My hon. friends opposite would immediately say: Just triple the budget, no problem, quadruple the budget or quintuple the budget.

**An hon. member:** Tax and spend.

**Mr. McCreath:** Exactly. Tax and spend, tax and spend, tax and spend.

Where does the money come from? My friends opposite have opposed every cost saving measure this government has come in with. I have not yet heard any recommendations from the Liberal Party as to which taxes should be increased or what new taxes it will bring in if it ever gets the opportunity.

This is the joy and the luxury of being in the opposition. It can be in favour of everything. It can spend money on all manner of programs and it is never called to account. I should tell my hon. friends I do not think they will be called to account on this one either. When the election comes this fall Canadian people are not going to be seduced by nonsense that says we should give everybody what they want. They are not going to be fooled by that.

In the short term we have to help people. We have unemployment insurance to help people who find themselves unexpectedly unemployed. We could have unemployment insurance that pays people to stay home, or we could have unemployment insurance that recognizes that rather than have people sitting at home and drawing unemployment insurance they could use the time trying to improve their own educational standards and developing some skills that they might be able to use in seeking alternate employment. That is the approach the govern-

ment has taken in that respect. It was that approach in Bill C-21 which was opposed by my hon. friends opposite. They wanted people simply to stay home and draw unemployment insurance. From time to time we need job development programs when there are severe difficulties.

Right now as we speak all members will know we have a very severe crisis in Atlantic Canada with our fishing industry. Last year when the real crunch hit in Newfoundland NCARP was brought in to provide funding to sustain people during this particularly difficult time.

• (1520)

In the rest of Atlantic Canada we have a similar situation right now. Last July quota cuts were announced of 30 per cent in the groundfish stocks in the Scotia-Fundy region and then in November the scientists came in and said that they had the numbers wrong and they told the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans at that time that he would have to make 70 per cent quota cuts.

At the urging of many members of the House, from both sides I might say, the government started working on a response program that would assist people. About a month and a half ago it did announce a program, and it is a very good beginning.

I have to say to my hon. friends on both sides of the House and to the government that this program is only a start. There are many hundreds of people in the maritime provinces who will not be eligible for the program, which as it exists now is designed to identify those people who will not be able to qualify for unemployment insurance because they will not be able to get enough weeks of work in. It is targeted at providing those people with the extra time they need so they can qualify for unemployment insurance. However there are some difficulties with the program in that it will only apply to a certain number of people in Atlantic Canada and that the terms of reference for eligibility are rather narrow. I think improvements need to be made.

At the same time, in the fishing industry, in particular in Atlantic Canada, we are going to have to recognize that as we go through a transitional period while it is important to provide bridging support to individuals and families as they face what for them will perhaps be the most serious crisis of their lives we are also going to have to do some restructuring in the fishery. That restructuring can be done on the basis of telling certain groups they