

*Unemployment*

**Miss MacDonald:** You do so much for women.

**Mr. Axworthy:** That is true. I will talk to the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) because she has a bad memory when it comes to what we are doing.

**Miss MacDonald:** I have a great memory.

**Mr. Axworthy:** She prefers to latch on to the sensational. I cannot be responsible for the sensational tactics of the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands.

**Miss MacDonald:** You find it tiresome, I know.

**Mr. Axworthy:** She is far more interested in her publicity and press clippings than in actual performance and progress, as we saw in the record of her own government.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. McDermid:** Look who's calling the kettle black.

**Mr. Axworthy:** The record speaks for itself.

**Mr. Jarvis:** It is despicable.

**Mr. Axworthy:** I do not have to get on the soap box, as does the hon. member from Kingston to proclaim her intent. Our record proves what we have done. Our record shows the kinds of achievements we have made.

**Miss MacDonald:** Some record.

**Mr. Axworthy:** It goes back to the analysis that we made that hard core unemployment is concentrated on people in certain regions and groups.

**Mr. Jarvis:** You cannot believe this?

**Mr. Axworthy:** If you really look at who is unemployed, it is not most Canadians. Unemployment is concentrated among certain people in regions of Canada where there is no economic development. That is one reason this government in its early days established a DREE program. We have spent \$600 million on DREE this year. This was to try to bring economic development to the poorer regions of Canada, to make sure they would have an equal opportunity. That is why we put the concept of equalization into the charter of rights in the constitutional package, so disparagingly talked about by members opposite. It was done to ensure that the poorer regions of Canada would have a fair share of the revenues. The hon. member for Calgary ignores that resource revenues for the people of Alberta are 15 times what they are for the people of Prince Edward Island. This concept of equalization in the charter of rights can somehow rectify that disparity so that there can be some kind of common standard across Canada. We think a charter of rights is important because of the need to equalize opportunities in this country.

**Miss Jewett:** That does not have a thing to do with it, Lloyd.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Let us talk about the necessity to equalize those opportunities. That is where the unemployment issue really resides. Our strategy was to begin to allocate our programs and resources to meet hard core unemployment. First, we reintroduced the direct employment programs. They were geared in terms of allocation to the poorer regions and areas of Canada. It may be of some interest to the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands, who has such a scoffing attitude toward the record of this government, that over 50 per cent of the participants in those programs were women. That is because we introduced an affirmative action program, something which her government never had the guts or ability to do.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Axworthy:** The hon. member can laugh, but that simply shows how committed she is to the issue. Rather than standing up and promoting the development of affirmative action programs to reduce the work barriers faced by native people, women and those who are disabled or handicapped she scoffs at it. That shows her commitment to the problems of women. She scoffs at our attempts at affirmative action programs.

**Mr. Jarvis:** You are beginning to take yourself seriously again.

**Mr. Axworthy:** That just shows how really committed the hon. member is.

**Miss Jewett:** Talk to your colleague.

**Miss MacDonald:** Find out from other women, Lloyd.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Let me talk about the non-traditional training programs which we brought in for women to assist them to move into new occupations which they have been prevented—

**Miss MacDonald:** You are getting tiresome.

**Mr. Axworthy:** We may be getting tiresome, but frankly, I find the hon. member opposite really demonstrates her true colours, which have nothing to do with the causes she espouses. She does not support real efforts to bring about improvements, progress or reform. All I ask is that the people of this country look at the record of her government in these areas, at the cancellation of employment programs, the refusal to move toward an affirmative action program, and find out whose record really stands up under scrutiny.

**An hon. Member:** Are you smarting under it?

**Mr. Jarvis:** Where is Bud Cullen?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Let us go to the issue which was raised by the hon. member for Hamilton-Mountain, namely the issue of lay-offs. He reamed off page after page of lay-offs. He asked why we did not do something about them. Somehow in his flow of rhetoric he forgets the introduction of the industrial adjustment program. That program has been geared exactly to the very problem he pinpoints. This country is going through