

the impact of changes in technology and the impact of a government which has refused to come to grips with the need to respond in a human and civilized fashion to those changes. This is a letter from a man 46 years old. He writes:

—for all my adult life I've worked at the same trade (rubber engraver). In April 1982 I was temporarily laid off due to lack of work & six months later was informed that, because of a new process my line of work & job had been eliminated. I then found myself at age 45 & with very little education (grade VIII) looking for a new field of employment—or any work for that matter—

He says that he realizes now:

—that I should have prepared myself by up grading my education via night school etc. during the past yrs while I was working, but I always thought, my job would last me out till retirement. However such was not the case.

He was thrown out of work, Mr. Speaker, and desperately tried to find something else or train for another line of work. What he decided to do was to train for horticulture. He put together his meagre savings and went into a horticultural course, was refused unemployment insurance and found that his savings ran out. In December of this year he asked UIC to give him a hand in his retraining. Well, Mr. Speaker, instead of saying yes, they are prepared to assist him with unemployment insurance benefits while he upgrades himself and retrain for another job, he was cut off from benefits and forced to quit the retraining program. As he says:

I strongly believe in my situation, because I desperately need a trade in order to find employment I should have been able to collect benefits in order to complete the course in March.

Of course, when his unemployment insurance benefits run out he will be in a worse situation. He will go on welfare with no trade, no profession, and his own training as a rubber engraver is useless in a world in which technology has passed him by. As he says:

—I do strongly feel that there must be something wrong with our system, where I after paying into UIC all my life (from the age of 15 yrs old on, without collecting benefits till now), that now I find myself in this unfortunate situation, desperately in need of financial help in order to re-establish myself, I am denied the opportunity & will sit around wasting time where I could be bettering myself with a chance for a new career.

He continues:

What are people like myself who at the age of late 40s, who are repeatedly told we're too old & are not given a second chance to regroup & start over, are supposed to do? Do we curl up & die?

Again, Mr. Speaker, how does this Government answer that cry, a cry which has been repeated right across this country? My constituent closes by saying:

I'm not belittling this country we live in, as we who live in Canada are a fortunate people compared to other countries, but all the same it is very discouraging & depressing.

What are we to do?

Is there any hope?

● (1240)

Is there any hope for a man in this situation in Canada today, Mr. Speaker? We must recognize that there is need for a fundamental restructuring of our economy, a reordering or our priorities, to ensure that investment capital is not being used to serve the needs of corporate shareholders by flowing wherever they get the maximum return on their investment.

### *The Address—Mr. S. Robinson*

Rather, that investment must be channelled into the creation of jobs here in Canada in the manufacturing sector as well as strengthening the resource sector.

It is a national shame that, despite the fact that we are one of the major mining and forestry countries in the world, we still have a massive balance of payments deficit when it comes to mining machinery and forestry machinery. We have a similar situation in the agricultural sector. If we are going to be creating new jobs, we have to do it by revitalizing manufacturing. We should also be looking at establishing a merchant marine so that Canadian products are transported on Canadian ships.

Instead of talking about cutting back on social services such as post-secondary education, pensions and health care, we should be recognizing that in many areas there is no need to expand those social services. We should be revamping the taxation system in this country to bring a sense of equity and fairness. Wage earners in Canada are paying their taxes by deductions. Despite this, last year almost 8,000 Canadians with incomes above \$50,000 did not pay a penny in income tax. In fact, 239 Canadians who earned in excess of \$250,000 in 1982 did not pay one cent in income tax. Where is the fairness in that? Our Finance Minister said he did not see any problem with this because down the line those individuals will be called upon to pay their taxes. In tough times there certainly is a need for sacrifice and restraint. However, there must be a sense of equity and fairness in that.

What is the alternative that the Official Opposition offers to the people of Canada? Naturally, people are anxious to get rid of the present Government. I fully share that sentiment. Let us look at the record, Mr. Speaker. Let us look at who votes time and time again with the Government. Over the past three years the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party voted together on 103 occasions. The New Democratic Party voted with the Government on 54 occasions. It is the Tories who prop up the Government time and time again.

I would like to quote from an article in *The Globe and Mail* in November which refers to the Finance critic, the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie):

He says that if he were in government tomorrow he would continue with the general approach taken by Finance Minister Marc Lalonde: that is, emphasize the need to reduce inflation and interest rates, support business and talk about restraint.

He says as well on policies:

We're not giving anything away. If you want to find out (what the policies are), elect us.

What kind of contemptuous attitude is that to the people of this country, Mr. Speaker? I know my time has come to an end. I hope that the Government will recognize that there is a crisis in terms of economics, preservation of social services and, more importantly, in terms of the survival of this planet and an end to the nuclear arms race.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Questions, comments?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, I have one very simple question for my colleague after listening with some interest to his