

Job Creation

There are many examples of the way in which the Department of Manpower and Immigration has designed programs to help unemployed workers. I should like to describe two of them. The firm making Blue Bell jeans had two locations, one in Renfrew and one in Carleton Place, Ontario. When these two factories closed down, it meant that over 100 people were without jobs. UI agents from the Canada Employment Centre went to work immediately. Using standard departmental procedures they interviewed all the employees who were affected by the lay-offs. I can see that hon. members in the New Democratic Party do not care about the unemployed because they laugh and chuckle.

These interviews accomplished several things. The first concern of most people is how they are going to pay the rent next month. At the work site, UI agents complete the initial paper work for the UI claims so that the workers can get financial help as quickly as possible and get on with the business of finding other jobs.

Finding jobs for the workers is the other part of these interviews, Mr. Speaker. Some workers are not willing to move. It must be determined what work experience and qualifications they have and whether training could help. The answers to such questions allow employment counsellors to help those who have been laid off to find jobs. The department and this government do more than merely give someone a few dollars, saying "good luck". The government takes seriously its responsibility to help them maintain their productive place in society. Providing UI does this temporarily and helping them to secure a new job does it permanently.

A more dramatic example occurred in Stephenville, Newfoundland, when the liner board company was in difficulty in 1977 and had to be bailed out. The loss of the American air force base meant a loss of business, and for the community it also meant that over 500 people were thrown out of work. Again, the Canada Employment Centre moved in using standard procedures, every employee affected was interviewed to see if he or she qualified for unemployment insurance and employment programs such as mobility and training aid. This information was used to blitz the various employment centres and large employers. As a result, most people found new work, and the community survived.

A footnote to this shows that the community now has an opportunity to prosper. Abitibi-Price has bought the old liner board company and is opening a paper mill. Undoubtedly, lay-offs are inevitable and hon. members across the floor must face that reality as we do.

The record of this government shows its use of complex unemployment insurance and employment programs to help individuals with the social impact of lay-offs.

Another response to temporary lay-offs is special job-creation measures. For a moment I should like to refer to a number of decisions made by the government as they relate to job creation. Direct decisions taken by cabinet will mean jobs and prosperity for many communities throughout Canada. The hon. member for Hamilton Mountain did not refer to those decisions, however. He wishes to put them aside because he is

the communicator of gloom and doom. Michelin Tire in Nova Scotia was provided with money by the Government of Canada. At the completion of this program it will have created some 1,850 jobs, and that is a fact, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Dingwall: Michelin will employ 5,200 people in Nova Scotia, thus becoming the largest manufacturing employer in Atlantic Canada. Production at this plant is scheduled to begin in July, 1982.

Another decision taken by the Government of Canada relates to the Sydney Steel Corporation. It is not in my riding but it is adjacent to it. A sizeable sum of money, \$96.2 million was provided to the Sydney Steel Corporation for modernization. That creates jobs and despite what the NDP might allude to, despite all their rhetoric, that is a fact, and they should acknowledge it. But the NDP is the communicator of gloom and doom.

There are other decisions that I wish to refer to very briefly because I think that it is important that all members of Parliament, not just the pink rump on that side, be made aware of them.

● (1750)

The Industry and Labour Adjustment Program, a very good program, in the amount of \$350 million. It involves four communities which are suffering from high unemployment and are receiving special assistance directly from the Government of Canada. Four departments of the Government of Canada are involved: DREE, Industry, Trade and Commerce, Employment and Immigration and Finance. I think that this information should be made known to Members of Parliament, it should be tabled, and all Members of Parliament should acknowledge that fact.

Of course, the Strait of Canso development is another initiative in the province of Nova Scotia. There are a couple of hundred across the country, but I am just referring to the ones for the province of Nova Scotia. The government provided an additional \$3.2 million for the Canada-Nova Scotia subsidiary agreement for the Strait of Canso area development. That too will create jobs.

An hon. Member: Is private enterprise producing any jobs?

Mr. Dingwall: Of course, we all know where the NDP sit concerning nuclear energy, but they do not go down and tell the workers of the heavy water plant what they think. The NDP will not communicate that. However, in February, 1981, a decision was made to transfer the title of the Government of Canada's \$300 million general uranium stockpile to Eldorado Nuclear Limited. The committee agreed in January, 1981, to seek parliamentary approval to lighten the debt load of Atomic Energy of Canada by \$822.7 million. That creates jobs, and has created 450 in one location, in my own constituency. That is very important. That is another fact.