

*The Economy*

have trust and that we must be generous with our neighbours. But when people are struggling for survival, when people fear that they will lose their jobs or that their children cannot find that first job, there is not much trust and generosity. Rhetoric will not produce the harmony we all want, but a healthy economy will.

We must reject the zero-sum world of the Liberal Government. We must move in a new direction where Canadians are encouraged by a government which understands the value of risk investment, investment that will create jobs, a government which understands the importance of competent management, and a government which knows that security only comes with a healthy economy.

Last week Canadians in three ridings rejected the zero-sum world. These Canadians confirmed recent Gallup polls. Canadians want this new direction. Canadians want to be proud of our country. We were proud of our country in 1967, of our people, of our way of life, of our industries and of our position in the world community. But Canadians have been robbed of this pride in recent years by 15 years of neglect and mismanagement.

Hon. Members today must take the first steps to regaining that pride, that hope for the future, that opportunity to rebuild the country of which we were so proud 15 years ago. The Minister's statement is a start, but it is only a very small start; we must go much further.

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

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, before I comment upon the observations of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) this afternoon, I should like to put this debate in the context of what the country is facing right now. Up to this point in 1982 we have had somewhere between 9,000 and 10,000 businesses which have gone bankrupt. In real numbers we have had something like one and three-quarter million Canadian men and women unemployed, people who would like to be obtaining cheques for working, not cheques from the Unemployment Insurance Commission or the welfare office. Because of the Liberal Government's total lack of concern with the seriousness of the economic situation, I want to indicate to the Minister that between now and Christmas we will have the loss of probably between 80,000 and 100,000 more jobs. Also we will have—and it is a conservative estimate—about 2,000 more businesses which will have gone bankrupt. Every region and every sector of the Canadian economy is affected by the recession that we are going through. That is the situation in which the Minister made his statement that went on for 25 or 27 pages.

What has the Minister come up with for the men and women who are looking for some hope? They are not looking for a pie in the sky or a quick fix. They want to believe that between now and Christmas there is some reason for economic hope; they are looking for that. What did the Minister come up with? I ask the Conservative critic to check his numbers. If he looks at the direct spending program and reads the fine print of the Minister, it is for 18 months, not 12 months the \$500 million allocated for direct job creation would not even be adequate for 12 months. If we add the slight changes that were

made in housing spending to the changes in fiscal outlay which the Minister said we will now get for direct job creation, we will have a total, in an economy measured in billions of dollars, of \$480 million being allocated for job creation. This will create at the most some 60,000 jobs. What we need in a crisis, because surely that is what we have, is a crisis program. In Canada right now we need a national recovery program, not the pittance thrown out by the Liberal Government this afternoon.

I will return to the Conservative Party in a minute, but all I can say at this point is that if clichés were a substitute for policy, we certainly heard them from the group on my right today. Having said that we must address those concerns, I want to underline it for those of us who have jobs. For some of us in the House of Commons they will be temporary jobs, I am convinced, but those of us who are working must consider the effects of the unemployment crisis. Michael Harrington of the United States wrote a book a number of years ago about the hidden poor. In a human sense we have in Canada the hidden unemployed. There is a great tendency for us to think in this land of ours that because we have unemployment insurance and the social fabric of the welfare state, not completed but at least in place in a way that it was not in the 1930s, somehow the men and women who are unemployed are not really suffering. There are Hon. Members on all sides of the House who have talked to the unemployed, but I do not know if there are Cabinet Members who have done so. The kind of unemployment we are experiencing now has a corrosive effect on the affected people, of which anyone who is at all sensitive is fully aware.

Men and women in this country want jobs, as we have said on other occasions. It is true that they want jobs; they do not want handouts. They do not want from their national Government 25 or 27 pages of so-called analysis. They would like to see a 25-page program which could be implemented now; that is what they want. There is a human concern out there which we must address. It is very real. Rather than coming up with a Program which is a drop in the bucket in the short run of less than \$500 million, we are proposing a spending Program in the short run of more than four times that amount. We do so and do not hesitate to do so. If the Tories are afraid to mention dollars because of some kind of perceived backlash, I can say that we in this Party are not afraid to talk about the need for spending to meet a human requirement right now—to create jobs. We say that by spending \$2.2 billion, using the same multiplier the Minister used in his figures earlier today, we would be able to create a minimum of 250,000 jobs for the men and women who need them.

• (1720)

Again unlike the Liberals and unlike the party on my right we are prepared to say concretely that those who are in a position to help pay now should be out there in the front of the line with their pay cheques, because the time for rhetoric about