

We have great wealth; we have unparalleled resources. We have energy resources of which most countries are envious and would be proud to have. We have minerals; we have great oceans. Yet we have a Liberal government which does not put these resources to the service of Canadians. We have a government which has tolerated hundreds of thousands of children living in poverty at the same time as these resources are being ripped off to serve our foreign masters.

As I say, we seek an industrial strategy. Many have talked in terms of an industrial strategy, but we seek one in which the wealth of the country will serve all the people of the country. We seek an end to the domination and exploitation of Canadians by outsiders. We seek an end to the system in which we are tenants in our own land, sending dividends year after year to our foreign masters and increasing our current account deficit.

In seeking this longer term strategy in which all Canadians will have jobs, it is important to recognize that it is not good enough simply to substitute Canadian seekers after greed and Canadians who search for corporate profit for foreign searchers of profit. It is important to have an economic system based on co-operatives and the creative role of public ownership in which serving the needs of Canadians is dominant.

In conclusion I say that fundamentally we reject the principles in Bill C-3 as being an abrogation of the responsibility of the government toward all Canadians in creating a decent society and a society in which all Canadians have work. We will continue to speak out at every opportunity on behalf of those Canadians, many of whom are voiceless, young and old, men and women, who are concerned about the erosion of the principles of unemployment insurance in the country and believe it is time for a real change. In the very near future I am confident they will reject once and for all the bankrupt Liberal economic policies in favour of a strong, decent, and compassionate New Democratic Party government.

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to address some remarks to the principles involved in Bill C-3. But more important I want to rise to reject out of hand the remarks made by members of the New Democratic Party to my left, that they and only they have a monopoly on the concerns of the unemployed in this country. There are many of us—and particularly members from my area of the Atlantic provinces—who are well aware of the problems of the one million unemployed in Canada, particularly those unemployed in the Atlantic area. We deal with those problems on a day to day basis. I think of the speeches made in the House over the years by members such as the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain), the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall) and other members from the Atlantic area. They brought to the attention of the House time and time again their concerns for the unemployed people of that area and of Canada.

I was concerned that those who listened to the speeches earlier made in the House would get the impression that we, particularly the members from Atlantic Canada, are not concerned with the plight of the unemployed. I underline for all

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members of the House and all interested persons that it is one of our greatest concerns.

We stand for legislation which will assist unemployed persons to gain the necessities of life. That is what we believe is the important feature of an unemployment insurance system. It is not to encourage idleness and refusal to work at whatever jobs are available. We recognize and realize that there are defects in the unemployment insurance plan which ought to be remedied for the benefit of honest workers who utilize the plan for the purpose for which it was intended, namely, to provide for the needs of life during those periods when a person is unemployed. I want to say categorically that I for one am most interested in the problems of the Canadian unemployed. I reject any suggestion on the part of any hon. member in the House that all of us do not stand together in that concern.

I want to direct my attention to the provisions of the bill, but more particularly to the remarks made by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) when he introduced it. One point he made clear at that time was that the provisions of this bill were only an interim measure and that he had in mind a general review and reassessment of the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act. Indeed, when he made his remarks on the occasion of the introduction of this bill on June 18, 1980, he said that he recognized the question of unemployment insurance was one that occupied a great deal of time in this House over the years. He said that he thought it was important we consider the relevancy and importance of unemployment insurance as it applies to the changing employment conditions in this country.

I for one welcome a general review of the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act. We hope such a review would bring about a balance of the legitimate needs of those people who find themselves from time to time unemployed and in need of assistance through a government-sponsored program. At the same time we hope any revision to the Unemployment Insurance Act will ensure that those who do not wish to work and participate in the economy of the nation through the effort of hard work will not benefit under this plan, and that sloth and idleness will not be encouraged. That is the point on which I take issue with my friends.

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We do not want in this country an unemployment insurance program which will encourage people not to work. We want incentives to people to work, and we want to ensure that every person in this country recognizes the value and the benefits of hard work. At the same time, and I repeat this without shame, we have to protect those persons who are unable to find employment, particularly in those provinces and regions of this country where employment is not as easily found as it may be in the province of British Columbia, and other areas where, for the moment, they are enjoying the wealth of the nation.

**An hon. Member:** You better learn about British Columbia.

**Mr. Crosby:** I would respond to the hon. member who suggests that I learn about British Columbia by saying I have