

April 17 he said his dominant concern was "to help the more than 1.5 million Canadians who want to work but cannot". That Budget did not help them; 1,473,000 are still unemployed. He is forecasting that the unemployed average will remain at 1,336,000 this year, and that in 1988 there will still be over 1,100,000 unemployed. May I ask the Minister with his do-nothing Budget, what is his dominant concern now? It is certainly not jobs for the unemployed. What is his dominant concern with this Budget, with 1,500,000 still unemployed?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has quoted a number of figures. I draw to his attention that, on a year-to-year basis, manufacturers' shipments rose by 17.2 per cent, new orders rose by 20.7 per cent, and unfilled orders rose by 30 per cent between December, 1982, and December, 1983. There was a very strong recovery in the Canadian economy at that time.

● (1420)

The Hon. Member refers to the number of unemployed, and again I have to remind him that in Canada last year we created 400,000 jobs. It is true that unemployment has remained high, although it is declining, but we have the fastest growing labour force of any industrialized country. This is a fact that is there for everyone to see.

The Government is pursuing an active policy of encouraging the creation of jobs by the private sector as fast as it can be done. It is also providing leadership in the public sector by increasing its spending. This year, for instance, the Government will spend over \$525 million more than it did last year in creating jobs directly and indirectly, in spite of the fact that it is trying to keep the federal deficit under control and under restraint.

Finally, I have to suggest to my hon. friend that perhaps he could tell the Canadian public what the tough, mean and nasty things are that he would do, and that he refused to tell the Canadian public last week after the Budget.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, the main nasty thing would be to kick out this Government.

ECONOMIC FORECASTS

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, you cannot get blood from a turnip, and you cannot get an answer from one either. The Minister has very optimistic economic forecasts in his Budget. He forecast economic real growth of 3.8 per cent on average in the next five years. Last Thursday when he was asked about those forecasts he said, "Frankly, who knows?" with a famous Gallic shrug. "Frankly, who knows?"

May I ask the Minister if any credence can be put in these forecasts that he is basing the anticipated level of unemployment on, since he has no faith in them? If they are not accurate, what will happen to his unemployment projections

which are already horrendous? What will happen to the Canadian economy?

Mr. Nielsen: Who knows?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, perhaps my hon. friend would like to take a look at the forecast given by a number of professionals in the field, both in Canada and in the United States. A few weeks ago, President Reagan tabled in the House of Representatives his own forecasts for the American economy over the next few years. The President's prediction for this year, 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 is a growth rate identical to that expected for Canada, namely, 4 per cent.

I may remind my hon. friend that the performance of Canada's economy often runs parallel to that of the U.S. economy, and that the forecasts presented by the Government of Canada are based on studies made by professionals in the field, as they are in the United States, or by international organizations such as the OECD, which did, in fact, predict a growth rate of 4.9 per cent, identical to my own forecast for 1984.

However, if my hon. friend thinks we can guarantee these figures for 1988, he is being less than reasonable. Nevertheless, I would like to point out that these predictions are not necessarily over-optimistic. Last year, I brought down a Budget with a number of forecasts, and the Opposition said my predictions were too optimistic. In fact, the economy performed even better than I had expected.

Consequently, I hope that by continuing the policies we have put in place and with the important measures this Government has taken in the economic sphere, we shall improve on our forecast, as we did in 1983.

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[English]

EMPLOYMENT

JOBS CANADA MAGAZINE—USE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. At a time when, according to the prognostications in the Budget of the Minister of Finance, the best scenario we can anticipate is 1.1 million unemployed Canadians for at least the next four years, how can the Minister justify funding and putting out the *Jobs Canada* magazine by a group called Bridging the Gap? This is a good news publication and indicates that anyone in Canada who wants work should be able to find it. And it was vetted by the Minister's officials. How can the Minister justify that expenditure of money on this kind of publication which is going to 2.6 million Canadian households, when the money could be better directed to the interests of the unemployed?