

Borrowing Authority

Speaker, as well as the Government, what my people would say if they were here. I said some of it yesterday in reply to the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn) who made the same point that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) made in his speech. That is, that one of the reasons unemployment insurance has to be cut, among other programs, is that there are people in Canada who really are not trying hard enough to get jobs. There are 176,000 jobs, we are told, going begging in this country and now we have the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) hiring 700 people to go around the country and oversee the people who are unemployed. That is 700 new jobs, but what it will do for the unemployed remains to be seen. I do not think it is going to do very much.

Certainly the track record of the Department of Employment and Immigration in finding jobs for people in this country is not that good so far. But the suggestion was made that there were people who were not looking hard enough. In other words, there were Canadians who were lazy, satisfied and content to be on unemployment insurance. I and others in this House reject that as a cynical indictment of Canadian workers, particularly of workers in our own area. The Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn) made that comment yesterday and I pointed out to him and to the House that in my area people have gone all over Canada looking for jobs and have not been able to find them. I wish someone would show me where those 176,000 jobs are, and show the workers in my area, because they certainly want them.

● (1200)

The Member for Calgary South (Mrs. Sparrow), who spoke earlier, talked about the elements in Calgary that come from all over the country. I watched her on TV as she spoke about the steel from Ontario and materials from other parts of the country that were being used in Calgary. She said that it was a truly Canadian operation. I accept that. However, she forgot to mention that a lot of the workers there were from the Atlantic provinces. They are there because there are no jobs in the Atlantic provinces. They have had to go elsewhere to look for work.

As I see it, this particular effort is not going to address the needs of the people of Atlantic Canada. I do not see that the effect of this move by the Government will be job creation in the Atlantic provinces, either temporarily or in the long run. If it has a long-run effect, it will be very, very long run.

There are a lot of cuts besides those in unemployment insurance. Eight point five million dollars is being phased out of summer employment for young people. In the Province of Newfoundland 50 per cent of all eligible young people are unemployed. That is staggering. It is a tragedy, Mr. Speaker. I do not think those jobs for young people in the private sector will come overnight or next winter. What do we say to young people in the meantime? Canada student loans as well as other programs will also not be increased. They have depended on Summer Canada but \$8.5 million is going to be phased out of that program. Mr. Speaker, if you were a representative of

that province, what would you say to the 50 per cent of young people who are unemployed? How would you explain that?

The Canadian Home Insulation Program is being phased out. I think there is a certain argument to be made in favour of that because that is certainly something that people should do on their own. It was an incentive program to encourage people to insulate and improve their houses at a time when energy was a factor and the housing industry needed a shot in the arm. The housing industry has picked up in some parts of the country but not in all parts. This particular move by the Government is indiscriminate. It treats all areas, groups and peoples alike. There is no consideration given for regional differences. The Canadian Home Insulation Program gave a lot of employment to small businesses, carpenters and electricians. It gave a lot of employment to many little people in the rural areas who depended on that program. What is their alternative?

With regard to the fisheries sector, \$1.2 million has been cut which was designated for a marine service centre on the Labrador coast. The fishermen in that area are among the most disadvantaged of any in Canada. This will affect Inuit people and fishermen with small boats from small communities in Newfoundland who use those facilities in the summer-time. That program was put in place because they need to catch up. It was put in place because the former government believed, as this Party now believes, that our job is to help first those who need it most and to put in place the things which they do not have but need to carry out their occupations. That \$1.2 million was slashed indiscriminately with no thought given to what effect it will have on that particular area.

While the fishing industry in the Atlantic is on its knees and struggling for survival, \$5 million is cut from the ad campaign attempting to sell fish in the United States. This comes at a time when, because of the strength of the U.S. dollar, the United States is buying a lot of European fish. I do not see how cutting \$5 million from the fish promotion program squares with helping the private sector.

Relocation assistance was cut by \$2.8 million. Labrador City, in my constituency, produces 50 per cent of all the iron ore in Canada. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) will know it well because he was president of the company that operated that particular town. Another town called Schefferville was closed down. I give the Prime Minister his due because he made sure that there were generous benefits made available to the people in Schefferville. I say publicly that that was a magnanimous stroke. Unfortunately, however, the same thing did not happen in Labrador City. There the company was allowed to use contract clauses to renege on severance payments to workers. They were allowed to treat workers as if they were on recall for three years rather than having been laid off. If there had been an upsurge in the iron ore industry in Canada, which everyone knew was not going to happen, at least not overnight, the workers would have been recalled. Therefore, the company was allowed to use that clause to avoid giving severance payments and the generous allowances which were given in Schefferville.