

up for my 20 minutes, and that rascal stands up and refuses to give me an opportunity to speak. Now I see the hon. member getting up on a point of order.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I do not mind the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) taking us to task on debating the points at issue, but to misrepresent our position is not acceptable. We never opposed any job creation or training programs. The position we have taken in committee, and in this House, is that those programs should not be charged against the UIC fund. The hon. member is well aware of that. He is misrepresenting the position of hon. members on this side of the House. That is a very irresponsible position for the Conservative critic to take. Indeed he is the rascal.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. It takes a lot of nerve for the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) to get up and do what he has just done. For hours this afternoon we sat through his wild charges. Surely he can let the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) finish his speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's point of order was more a point of clarification. I do not see how the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne) can clarify what has already been said.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate what the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne) has just stated.

As I was saying about that rascal, and as I was saying about his party, they have now stated that they are not interested in job creation. I do not care whether or not he wants to split hairs with me. He says he does not want jobs created. We in this party say that we want to give the minister a chance to see whether this job creation proposal can work. We are prepared to be realistic, but the hypocrites on my left only say, "We are all for the poor. Create jobs for them".

● (2020)

I have watched the leader of the NDP stand in this chamber every day speaking to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald), and to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Cullen); telling them, "There are one million people out of work. Create jobs", but now that there is an opportunity to create a few jobs, those rascals—and in particular the biggest one who is the smallest one—stand up and tell me they are not interested in job creation. I listened to that nonsense all day and I am getting sick and tired of the hypocritical attitude that that party adopts for their own particular benefit. But nobody buys anything they say. The proof of the pudding is that the socialists only have 15 or 16 seats. Mark my words, come the next election they will have even less.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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Employment and Immigration

Mr. Alexander: That is how much the people believe in the socialists. I do not want to get involved in partisanship. As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, we have here an amendment. I wish we could wipe out work sharing.

Mr. Rodriguez: You are losing your seats to the Liberals.

Mr. Alexander: I wish we could wipe out the socialists as well, but we will leave it to the people.

I find that labour and management in particular do not go along with work sharing. They are fundamentally opposed to it and I do not think I am exaggerating one bit, whether we talk about the CLC, the construction association, the manufacturers' association, or other representatives of labour and management. They all said, "No way, it does not work." Experiments were made with it in France, Italy, West Germany, and I will give the hon. member, the little rascal, credit, because he indicated that work sharing has been around for a long time and has not worked. There is no reason why we should be involved with it right now, and I will not pursue it any further.

While I am on my feet, let me say that while we appreciate what the government is trying to do with job training—

An hon. Member: Here you go again.

Mr. Alexander: Will you shut up, Cyril? I did not bother you, Sir.

We appreciate what is going to happen with job creation, but we are a little skeptical about it.

In my motion I ask that the minister report back to the House within one year after the proclamation of this bill to give us an analysis of the pilot projects. Incidentally, we would like to know at the same time about job training and job creation. That is my amendment.

What does the minister want with work sharing? He wants to share with others what few jobs there are in existence. That is not right. What we should be doing is to create an atmosphere where jobs can be created. Let me say without any hesitation that people do want to work, but I am worried about the fact that the Minister of Finance ignored OECD back in October and November of 1976, ignored the Economic Council of Canada, and ignored the Conference Board of Canada—all of them respectable organizations which said, "Mr. Minister of Finance, please get on the ball and create an atmosphere whereby jobs can be created;" in other words, "bring in a budget". That was in October of 1976. The minister did not bring down a budget until March 31, 1977, and at that time we already had one million unemployed.

It is incumbent on the minister to start talking about a revised budget so as at least to show the Canadian people that he is aware of reality. We have called for tax cuts, we have called for cuts in the sales tax, we have called for some contractual enterprise with firms which would be prepared to go to the slow growth areas for which they would receive tax relief, and we have talked about the unproductive programs of the government involving the tax dollar and putting them into