

last two-and-a-half years to deal with these instances as they come up. We will do it further in a tax reform discussion paper which will be brought forward this spring. I hope this will gain the support of the Hon. Member and his Party.

Let me comment on the effects on individuals. The unemployment rate is down. Some 677,000 more Canadians have jobs. Short-term interest rates are down. People who are buying homes today will find that it will cost them on a \$50,000—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order, order!

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** I know that the good news hurts over there.

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

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, the news is that since this Government has come in corporate taxes have gone down 18 per cent, individual taxes have gone up 52 per cent, and unemployment in seven of the ten provinces is as bad or worse than when the Government was elected. That is the reality.

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

[Translation]

REDUCTION OF FUNDS FOR EQUALIZATION PAYMENTS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, today the unemployment rate in seven out of ten provinces is as bad as it was five years ago. Considering this fact, why does the Minister want to cut funds for equalization and regional development in this Budget?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, both the Leader of the Opposition and his cell-mate have been using this statistic on the unemployment figures. In Newfoundland in September, 1984, the unemployment rate was 23.8 per cent, while in January, 1987, it was 19.2 per cent.

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

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** In New Brunswick the unemployment rate was 16.2 per cent in September of 1984; it is currently 13.9 per cent. In Quebec the figure was 12.9 per cent in 1984; it is 10.8 per cent at present. In Ontario in September of 1984 the rate was 9.4 per cent; at present it is 6.6 per cent. The figure for Manitoba was 9 per cent in 1984; it is currently 7.9 per cent. In Saskatchewan it was 8.7 per cent in 1984; it is currently 7.3 per cent. In Alberta it was 12.1 per cent; it is now 10.8 per cent. In British Columbia it was 15.1 per cent; it is currently 13.6 per cent. Those are the facts from Statistics Canada. There are only two provinces in which the unemployment rate is higher, and it is just by a very small amount.

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

### Oral Questions

#### REQUEST FOR CORPORATE TAX REFORM IN ORDER TO HELP REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, the reality is with respect to the comparisons between the depth of the depression and now. I can tell the Minister that he can go to most regions of the country and find that Canadians will tell him that unemployment is at a totally unacceptable level. That is what he will discover.

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

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister this, and I hope instead of rattling off statistics he will give us—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Poor guy doesn't like the truth.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member will complete his question.

**Mr. Broadbent:** The third Party over there is having a little difficulty today.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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

**Mr. Axworthy:** The fourth Party.

**Mr. Broadbent:** That is right; they are behind the undecideds.

I wish to ask the Minister this. Since the Minister pointed out last night that there are many profitable corporations which are not paying taxes and since he knows that there are many regions in Canada in which the unemployment level is unexceptionally high—

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Unexceptionally?

**Mr. Broadbent:** —unacceptably high, why did he not bring in corporate tax reform now and use the money from that for regional development in those parts of Canada that need it?

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

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, as a casual observer of the political scene I might say that the Hon. Member is not wearing his fleeting success very well.

**Mr. Broadbent:** That's really witty, Michael.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Strike one!

**Mr. Keeper:** You know what you're talking about.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Bring back Crosbie.

**Mr. Speaker:** I ask Hon. Members to put their questions succinctly. Ministers, when questions are put succinctly, will deal with them in a succinct way. The Hon. Minister.