

*Oral Questions*

The minister mentioned the responsibilities of the provinces. The Canada Assistance Plan states that governments should provide funds to ensure: "The basic requirement of food, shelter, clothing, fuel, utilities, household supplies, and personal requirements". This is not being done.

This government, by putting the cap on CAP on the three provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario where over half of Canada's poor reside, has walked away from one-half of Canada's poor. Will the Minister of Finance in a sincere attempt to address poverty, reinstate the 50/50 cost-sharing of CAP with those three provinces that contain half of Canada's poor?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member wants the federal government to print more money or find more money and send it on to the provinces.

If she looked at page 91 of the Ontario budget she would find according to its records that federal payments to the Government of Ontario in 1992-1993 will rise by 17.2 per cent. This is at a time when we are trying to constrain our government expenditures to no more than 3 per cent per year.

The hon. member cannot have it both ways. Is she suggesting we follow the policy of her party as enunciated by her employment critic, the hon. member for Timmins—Chapleau, as reported in the *Hamilton Spectator*: "The government should look into just printing the money they need to spend their way out of the recession". He goes on to say: "When we borrow money to do a project that money has to be repaid. We are just chasing in circles like a dog chasing its tail and not getting anywhere. Instead of borrowing the money we should create it and then we will not have to pay it back."

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**EMPLOYMENT**

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** Madam Speaker, I too have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

The Canadian Mental Health Association says this is the worst recession in Canadian history. It has brought

with it record numbers of suicides, child and wife abuse, drug addiction, alcoholism and the breakdown of families.

Instead of accepting the association's report and helping these unemployed victims of recession, the government kicks them when they are down by slashing UI benefits and killing job training programs.

Will this government today introduce programs to save our 1.5 million unemployed whose pain is eating at the soul of this country?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, many members of Parliament have seen first-hand the devastating results of a family faced with long-term unemployment or no job prospects. I do not think anyone takes pleasure in seeing that.

Many of us have struggled to fight the destructive elements that flow from this kind of situation. Just last week with the Liberal premier and an NDP premier in British Columbia, this government entered into a demonstration project with both B.C. and New Brunswick to try to break that cycle of dependency of people, to try to help these people in need to become self-sufficient and independent.

The hon. member should recognize that these measures which have been taken are important steps in trying to help needy Canadians.

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** Madam Speaker, the numbers are not good enough.

Last week I met with unemployed constituents in my riding of Winnipeg North. They told me the federal government has done nothing to help them. There is no job training, no counselling, no hope.

Will the minister fly to my riding and tell my constituents he is doing all he can do? Can he look them in the eye and say that his hands are tied?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, again and again, we have Liberal theatrics. The hon. member wants to look at Manitoba and the city of Winnipeg and he wants numbers. I know the Liberal way is always measuring any action in terms of dollars spent, the taxpayer's money, by the way, and only one taxpayer.