

Supply

We are spending our time talking about roughly 2,000 people who really are in desperate need of UI because they quit for sexual harassment reasons, they quit because they felt it was unsafe in the work place or they had tensions and pressures on them that are hard to explain to UI or a referee board or anything like that. Instead, we should be talking about how to create employment. I say to the member that I look forward to the day when we can have discussions in this House with more than a few members of the government sitting listening to us so that we can discuss in legitimate terms just how we can make this country a little better for all of us.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Resuming debate. I give the floor to the hon. member for Laval-Est and ask that he indicate to the Chair whether he wants to use all his time or share it with a colleague.

Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State and to Minister of Multiculturalism and Citizenship): Mr. Speaker, I will share my time with the hon. member for Abitibi and I will take my 10 minutes. I thank the assistant whip who also gave me his speaking time.

First of all, I would like to say at the beginning that these things interest me and I want to talk about them. Unfortunately, we only have 10 minutes. I want to get to the point right away. As you know, almost all members' offices were invaded today by unions and groups that naturally came into our offices without appointments, without calling, by surprise. I find it very unfortunate that union members paid by the union, as was confirmed, who are not unemployed did that to the detriment of many colleagues and employees.

Nevertheless, I must point out that in my office, there were wonderful, polite, nice people who were surprisingly courteous with my staff. Still, they have taken over our riding offices and are deciding themselves when they will arrive and how long they will stay. I find that really deplorable.

The worst part is that at the offices of some of our colleagues here on this side of the House, there were violence and arrests, believe it or not. I find that even more deplorable. That was in Ahuntsic, to help you get an idea. I have just spoken with the police and I received confirmation that there were violence and arrests. I find

that too bad because those people to whom I myself spoke today told my assistants that they left more enlightened than when they came in.

Perhaps some of my colleagues have not had a chance to talk or explain, since we were meeting in caucus this morning. We discussed all the points for two hours and we are finding the best possible solutions for our workers. We must not forget that the government has a big problem. This is also a question of dollars and cents.

I must tell you that now that we are at this point, there have even been threats against our homes and families. I called and asked the RCMP, who seemed unaware of certain things, to do their job. I must tell you that if there is no protection tomorrow, probably I will not be able to come to sit here. This is a notice to those concerned! When our families are affected because of a bill, we realize that members are no longer free to act in the House of Commons. Groups are now dictating to the government what to do. That is too bad. I am ready to meet those people at any time, but at least on my time, by appointment.

I also have in front of me a newspaper article where we see that there will be demonstrations and even violence. Some completely wrong announcements are made, and in the five or six minutes remaining to me, I would like to analyze them with you.

"Bill C-105 is one of the worst attacks on our rights." That is totally false. It is a measure to protect all workers and employers who finance our plan, and you and me who work. Our measures protect them from people who choose not to work. The unemployed will continue to benefit from our unemployment insurance plan. That is guaranteed.

Second, "the changes give employers too much power", the "damn" employers. I hear that again and again. It has reached the point that employers are blamed for everything, but they pay \$4.25 for every \$100 of salary and the employee pays \$3. As someone who was an employer for 25 years, I personally had to deal with the blue forms. I find it rather a shame that it is always blamed on the employer. Once again, this is a false claim. The bill does not grant any power to employers. This is just not true. When a claim for benefits is submitted, UI officers give to both the employer and the claimant the same chance to provide the required information. The officer must hear both sides, that is the employer and the employee.