

*Unemployment Insurance Act*

which blows the winds which are then transmitted into Liberal policy, or lack thereof. The winds of change are coming, as my good friend, the hon. member for Beaches, has said.

Further in this great Liberal policy document to be discussed on the weekend, and in the context of Bill C-3, we find the following statement at page 33:

We frequently live up to our reformist tradition by putting forward progressive proposals only to give way, perhaps too often, as a government, to other pressures.

This is a very interesting admission on the part of the drafters of this document, an admission of failure on the part of the Liberal party, an admission that the Liberal party has given way to pressures from unstated pressure groups, very likely the corporate establishment, those people who traditionally have loud voices in the corridors of the Liberal government.

The document goes on to read:

Yet we as a party must share in the responsibility of what is accomplished and what is left undone.

I should like to state again the concern which is expressed in this document which is very likely to become the policy of the Liberal party, namely, that the Liberal party itself is giving way to pressure groups and yielding on important social programs.

The document goes on to talk about the fact that there are too many Canadians who experience unemployment, poor wages, job insecurity, unnecessarily tedious or dangerous work. In some cases this document has analysed the problems correctly. It has pointed out correctly that the Liberal party for too long has listened to the voices of the privileged, comfortable few, and one can only hope that instead of listening to this latter day attempt at conversion, Canadians will reject it for what it is and will seek to join the party which has traditionally been speaking on behalf of the concerns of the ordinary people.

As I indicated, we have a crisis in this country in terms of unemployment, a crisis with which this bill has not dealt, a crisis which this bill will make more severe. The problem of unemployment must be dealt with on two fronts. First, we have to deal with the effects of unemployment, and we must recognize the reality that there are some one million people who must survive, who must have a source of income and who have no work. To suggest that somehow those people are responsible for their own plight, as has been suggested in the past by members on my right and members on the opposite side of the House, is blaming the victims of the government's economic policies.

We say that all those persons in this country who want to work and cannot find work are entitled to a decent and humane standard of living for themselves and their families.

Furthermore, we say that there is work to be done in this country, both in the short-term and in the longer term. In the short term it is absolutely scandalous that there is a severe problem in the provision of housing. In my own constituency of Burnaby, for example, there are far too many people who want

to find housing and cannot find it. In many cases these are single parents. We have a desperate need for housing in communities all across the country.

● (1700)

We have building trade workers who want to work. We have carpenters, painters, electricians and many other tradesmen who would like to put their skills to good use and who have been trained to build housing. Yet we have a government that cannot put the two together. Although there is a crisis in housing and a surplus of people who want to build housing in this country, we have a Liberal government that has failed to put the need together with those resources. Surely it is a rather searing indictment of the failure of the government to deal with one of the most fundamental rights of all Canadians, that is, the right to decent housing.

There are many other jobs which could be done in the country that are not being done in areas such as the provision of rapid transit facilities. For example, in the lower mainland of British Columbia they are in desperate need of decent rapid transit to move people from community to community. Hundreds of people could be put to work there building rapid transit facilities, not only there but elsewhere in the country. There are many energy conservation projects which could be undertaken that would put Canadians, young and old, men and women, to work.

We should be listening to the voices of hundreds of municipalities across the land. They have called upon the federal government to listen to their concerns. They have said that there are certain programs which they believe should be implemented and for which surely the federal government should have some responsibility by assisting them perhaps on a cost-sharing basis. Let us listen for a change to the concerns of the people of the country through their municipal representatives. There is work to be done in the municipalities, and there are people who would like to do that work.

There are environmental problems in the country. There is much clean-up to be done. Again this is an area in which many people could be employed in the short term.

But it is clear that in the long term only a fundamental change in the economic system of this country will result in the kind of economy in which we as New Democrats believe, an economy in which all those Canadians who wish to work will be able to work. We believe only in an economy which is not based upon the pursuit of greed and the pursuit of corporate profit. Rather, it should be an economy based upon serving human needs, not deciding upon what the maximum profit can be or what the maximum return can be on a given investment, with all the destructive effects that kind of economy has in terms of the degradation of our environment and its pollution, and in terms of the health and safety of working people. Of course in maximizing profit we minimize the money spent on the health and safety of workers and on improving hazardous and substandard products. We spend billions on wasteful advertising promoting consumer greed. Instead of that we seek an economy which identifies our resources as a nation.