

The Budget

We must consider this budget in the light of the social and economic conditions which are prevailing in this country at this time. Whenever we put questions to members of the government about the social and economic conditions in the country they love to refer to what they say is the great increase in jobs that have been created since they came to power in 1984.

I refer you, Madam Speaker, to a report, which came out on February 14, 1990, just a couple of weeks ago, put out by the Economic Council of Canada which is called *Good Jobs, Bad Jobs*. What does the Economic Council say about the jobs which have been created in this country in recent years?

First, it says that over 70 per cent of Canadian workers are now employed in service industries. Later the report points out again that over 50 per cent of the jobs created in service industries are in low paying, minimum wage, non-unionized jobs where there is no training, no future and no benefits. The report also says: "Over-all, the growth of these employment forms is undermining the economic security of a significant and growing portion of the work-force. In the long run this may even have negative consequences for the fabric of Canadian society."

That is what the Economic Council has said. It is not what the Liberal Party is saying, although we have been saying that for many years now. I have been saying that in the House when I put questions to the ministers for employment. I have asked them about the quality of the jobs that they say they are creating. Can a person start a family, build a home, build a new life when they are working only 12 hours a week at a minimum wage? No, they cannot. So you have to look behind those unemployment figures.

By the way, the rate of unemployment now has gone up for four consecutive months and we will get another report by Statistics Canada tomorrow on the unemployment situation. Many expect that it will continue to go up. As a matter of fact, even the Minister of Finance has predicted that the rate of unemployment will increase to 8.5 per cent in this year. Yet he stands pat, he does not change his policies for economic growth, he does not change his policies for job creation, and he does not change his policies with respect to unemployment insurance.

We have another recent report as well which says more or less the same thing. This report is put out by the

Canada Employment and Immigration Advisory Council. This is an advisory council set up by the Minister of Employment and it is equally critical of the government. It says: "After nearly six years of economic recovery many regions of the country continue to experience double digit unemployment and some have not yet regained their pre-recession employment levels. Although there have been many new jobs, many of these are in the part-time, low paying service sectors."

This is an advisory council to the government appointed by the Minister of Employment. Its report says that many of these policies will have major negative effects which will be experienced in the regions of Canada. The policies to which it refers are cutbacks in regional development, reduction in the growth of transfer payments to the provinces for health, social welfare and education, changes to the unemployment insurance program, closure of Canadian Forces bases, lower subsidies to VIA Rail, lower subsidies to the CBC and postponement of the *Polar 8* icebreaker program.

Here we have two independent advisory councils, the Economic Council and the Canadian Employment and Immigration Advisory Council, both telling the government to do exactly the opposite of what the government has done in this budget.

I understand that my time is up. In addition to containing massive tax increases, the budgetary policy involving massive tax increases, in particular the goods and services tax and cutting back on essential programs in health care and education is also a recipe for recession. If the government continues along the lines that it is going, it is going to push this country over the precipice into a major recession.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Blackburn (Jonquière): Madam Speaker, I take it from my colleague's comment, the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, that he did not read some articles from the *Journal de Montréal* which reported that the former *Parti Québécois* Minister, Mr. Bernard Landry, had phoned the Minister of State for Finance to tell him that that budget was quite a feat, a very good budget and that Mr. Wilson was the best Finance minister Canada ever had.

I would also ask our colleague from Notre-Dame-de-Grâce to comment on the budget of one of his former colleagues, who, when he was Minister of Finance back in 1981, stated, as reported in the *The Ottawa Citizen* of