

It would damage the volunteer sector. I do not think there is any question about that. The charitable donations would be decimated and they have let us know that in no uncertain terms.

In short, the flat tax would penalize those people we are trying to help the most with the budget that was just released on Tuesday.

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### UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

This budget means very little to a great many Canadians in Toronto, especially the 206,000 unemployed individuals who need immediate jobs to put their families back on track, the 400,000 people on welfare who need immediate hope and 124,000 people who use food banks and want this undignified dependence to come to an end.

Why did the government ignore the plight of these Canadians in its budget by failing to introduce job creation measures that would have addressed the economic malaise confronting these Canadians and metropolitan Toronto?

**Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)):** Mr. Speaker, we learned our lessons from the 1981-82 recession when the government of the day threw money at the problems and it did not solve the problem. It was borrowed money and we are trying to pay back that debt today. We are suffering under that debt load in this country.

The best thing we can do for those people is get the economy going again, to create meaningful, full-time employment, not just make-work projects for a month or two.

The amount of money that was suggested by the Liberal Party would only have provided about 30,000 short-term jobs across the entire country. That is not the way to solve the problem. The way to solve the problem is to get our fundamentals in place and come out of this recovery full speed ahead.

That is exactly what all the think tanks across this country and around the world are saying, that we are in

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the best position of any country in the G-7 for recovery this year.

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** That response is full of bunk and the minister knows that.

The municipal government of metropolitan Toronto proposed specific joint projects to be shared among the three levels of government that would have provided the very job stimulus that is required by Toronto.

For instance, one initiative was the construction of a new trade centre that would have created 7,000 immediate construction jobs and 3,000 permanent jobs.

Why did the government say no to this and other sensible projects, not make-work projects but sensible projects, that would have put Canadians back to work and would have had some meaning to this government's feeling that the economy is indeed back on track?

**Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)):** Mr. Speaker, we did not do that because the taxpayers of this country have told us in no uncertain terms not to bring forward make-work projects but get the economy back on track. Once the economy is back working again then some of these projects may be able to take place.

Right now the taxpayer—there is only one taxpayer—cannot afford to borrow more money. All it will do is force up interest rates. It will increase inflation and we will be back in that same old cycle that the Liberals had us on for years. We are trying to get out of that and we believe the policies that we have are going to work.

**Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of employment.

A recent Statistics Canada report reveals that most Canadians who claim unemployment insurance are likely to find themselves out of work repeatedly in the course of their working lives.

The report states that repeat unemployment insurance use is very high. Repeat users represent as many as 80 per cent of all claimants.

I ask the minister, why did the budget not include a national training strategy that would help these people get off the UI treadmill?