

dian establishment. This is an anti-people Budget, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

After making all kinds of promises, after promising us that ordinary Canadians would never bear the brunt of measures to reduce the deficit, that social programs were a sacred trust, and so forth, the Conservative Government has once again shown its true colours.

In 1984, it tried to deindex old age security pensions, and now, Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that its attack on senior citizens backfired, the Government is trying once again to reduce the deficit at the expense of the poorest in this country, the unemployed.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that the Liberal Opposition will fight as hard as it did when the Tory Government made its abortive attempt to deindex old age security pensions.

We can hardly expect a more sensitive approach this year, from a Government that announces cuts in unemployment insurance and says that the unemployed will have to pay for new training programs.

On April 11, the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mrs. McDougall) announced changes in the Unemployment Insurance Program. Typically, the Tory Government will make the unemployed pay for the new training programs introduced as a result of this reform.

Mr. Speaker, this Government seems to think Canadian workers don't have enough troubles as it is. The Government has increased the period of employment required to be eligible for benefits and at the same time, it has the nerve to reduce the number of weeks during which a worker may receive benefits.

But the Government didn't stop there. The Americans, or should I say the bosses of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), let him know that unemployment insurance was considered to be a hidden subsidy.

Instead of standing firm during the negotiations on what constitutes a subsidy, this Government goes weak-kneed as soon as it hears from our neighbours to the South. The result? The Government has entirely withdrawn from financing the Unemployment Insurance

Fund, so that workers and employers will have to pay the whole shot.

Mr. Speaker, remember when the Prime Minister said during the televised debate between the Leaders that social programs were not threatened? He even went so far as to say that the Leader of the Opposition was using scare tactics. Well, let me tell you that the Leader of the Opposition was right and that the Prime Minister of Canada has deceived Canadians once again. Canadians have had enough of this Government's broken promises!

Mr. Speaker, in connection with the unemployment insurance reform, I would like to quote Michel Vastel, a reporter with *Le Devoir*, from his article published on April 12 this year:

It all boils down to making the unemployed pay part of the cost of adjusting to free trade.

That is Tory social justice for you!

• (1150)

[English]

This is indeed a heartless Government. I believe that it is showing its true colours now that the election is over. It has hit Canadian families through the postponement in the delivery of the \$4 billion worth of child care spaces. It has decided not to go ahead with its own program for budgetary reasons. I would have understood the elimination of this program had it been replaced with ones that Canadians really want and need, but to eliminate it outright simply shows that the Government has no commitment to Canadian families. The Budget killed any hope for immediate relief in the child care crisis despite the Government's election promise and its commitment in the Throne Speech.

The Government must put into place some capital funding to facilitate the creation of desperately needed child care spaces throughout Canada. It is obvious that the Tory Government and this Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) are more concerned with their ideological propensity to slash government spending and increase taxes than the provision of adequate and essential services to all Canadians. The \$4 billion cut over six years in transfer payments to the provinces will hit Canadians where government assistance is a must. The Established Programs Financing transfer payments are once again affected by substantial reductions. The Government first cut money transfer payments by 2 per cent in 1986. Now, an additional 1 per cent cut will have a profound impact on those provincial programs which depend on federal financing to provide adequate services to all Canadians.

The services that these cuts affect are the most important elements of our society. The cut in EPF transfer payments will affect the ability of the provinces