that their appeal has won a unanimous decision. Now the government is going to appeal that.

When I see and hear the Minister of state say in this House that the benefit of the doubt will go to the workers, I say to that minister and the member from Macleod that those 300 workers in the Macleod riding do not feel that they have been given the benefit of the doubt. This is a situation where this new bill is being brought in to deal with probably 1 per cent who are cheating the system. The whole unemployment program will become stagnant because people will be dealing with all those at the desk to find out whether they qualify or not. I say to each member of Parliament that they are going to have more and more of the unemployed coming into their offices and asking for assistance because of the delays that are taking place.

That is not acceptable. Canadians need a government that understands that the best way to increase productivity and competitiveness is by providing security and not by eroding the safety net. I implore the government to reconsider and retract this ill-designed measure.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the NDP member who said with much emphasis and emotion that this government was pushing the unemployment insurance system into bankruptcy. In fact, it is quite the opposite. According to the figures, if we set aside the proposed measures, the unemployment insurance fund will have a $8.5 billion deficit. If we do take these measures, we limit the deficit to $7.5 billion. We take this type of measure to keep the unemployment insurance system from failing.

It is very well for the opposition to rise and talk about bankruptcy. If you want to talk about that, you should look at what the New Democratic Party is doing in Ontario, a true example of a province about to go bankrupt. If you examine the measures taken by the NDP Government of Ontario, you will find that in some respects they are not all that different. When you assume power, you must make decisions and take on responsibilities. It is easy enough to come here and tell us that our measures are inadequate, that we must vote against Bill C-105.

Furthermore, let us not forget that Bill C-105 will also freeze the salaries of members of Parliament and civil servants. My question is quite simple. Since the hon. member states in this House that this initiative is unacceptable, the other option would have been to raise by 20, 30, or 40 per cent all the contributions of workers and the employers. It is all too easy to stand in this House and tell the Canadian people that what the government did is bad. How would the NDP members solve the problem? We have a real problem on our hands right now, but you never talk about that. My colleague never says a word about the unemployment insurance fund deficit. It is quite obvious that this government will never let it run out of control like the Liberals did.

[*English*]

Mr. Parker: Mr. Speaker, surely the member must realize that if these people do not get unemployment insurance they are going to go to their municipalities or to the province to request some assistance. They have paid for this. These workers I am talking about have paid for this unemployment insurance for the past 10 or 12 years and never collected it. Now they have an opportunity to collect their insurance.

Mr. Robitaille: Give us a solution.

Mr. Parker: I will tell you where the solutions are. When the member's government brought in Bill C-21 and removed itself as a contributor to the unemployment insurance scheme and put the burden on the workers and on the employers, you created the problem of the deficit of that situation. It had no right to turn that over to the municipalities and the provinces to provide social assistance to fulfil the unemployment insurance program that is supposed to be in place as a safety net. We should be creating employment opportunities for workers and not unemployment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments are now terminated. Debate. This is the second half of the 20 minutes.

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I came to this House the same year you did in 1972. I am quite sure you remember. It is very important to have an historical perspective on unemployment insurance.