

My budget today is dedicated to building a strong and growing economy—an economy that will generate lasting, meaningful jobs for all Canadians who want to work, an economy that will provide the economic opportunity and security all Canadians seek.

He went on to say:

My objective as Minister of Finance has been and remains straightforward: to keep the economy growing, so that Canadians who want to work can find productive and meaningful jobs.

I had intended to deal with a number of items emanating from the Budget Speech dealing with taxes, with the items mentioned by my friend across the way for Thunder Bay-Nipigon (Mr. Masters), and with the delay in implementation of many items. Frankly, there is no general thrust to the Budget. The Budget does little to spur economic recovery. It is a white paper Budget. Proposals are presented on mortgage protection and other items which are to be studied rather than implemented. The fact is we will have an election long before the Government gets around to dealing with any of those items. Perhaps that is a good thing as they will be dealt with expeditiously, properly and fairly when that time comes.

How can anyone say that the goal of economic recovery is met while 1.5 million Canadians are out of work? How can anyone say there is economic recovery when the unemployment rate is going to average 10 per cent this year, with our industrial capacity being used at only 70 per cent, and when real wages will not go up one cent? The concern of the Government was said to be jobs, Mr. Speaker. That, too, is an illusion.

Two days after the Budget was tabled *The Globe and Mail* carried this comment:

What bothers us, too, is the small return on the money the Government has allocated to finding jobs for the unemployed. Projects appear from nowhere and quickly return there. Often they're sabotaged by politics, as in the controversial handling of the Special Employment Initiatives Program—

For that, Mr. Speaker, you read "Liberal slush fund".

—which seemed little more than an excuse for Liberal MPs to pose beside constituents with cheque in hand.

The editorial went on to speak about the need for the Government to have a cohesive plan. It spoke about "a gaggle of programs which sound dandy when described in costly brochures". The article went on to estimate that it will cost \$2,333 for every unemployed person in Canada. The point is made that by the time that has cleared the bureaucracy very little actually gets spent. That would mean about \$12 million for the unemployed coming into my constituency of Prince Edward-Hastings. There is no way that has happened or will happen.

I would like to quote from that mouthpiece of the Liberal Party in Ontario, the *Toronto Star*. The day after the Budget was tabled an editorial in the *Star* said:

Finance Minister Marc Lalonde has effectively told Canada's 1.4 million unemployed that they're out of luck. He isn't prepared to undertake a single major new initiative to ease their plight, or to address our most pressing economic and social problem.

The Budget—Mr. Ellis

It concluded by saying:

—the crucial test of this budget was what it would do to reduce unemployment. And, by that test, Lalonde has not provided what Canadians were entitled to expect and demand.

I will tell you what the situation is in Prince Edward-Hastings, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday morning at about 7.30, at the height of what was the second worst storm this winter, between 3,000 and 4,000 men and women stood huddled in a line a kilometre long outside the Canada employment office waiting for it to open. A major company in Belleville had said it would release to the Canada employment centre some 500 job application forms. This employer is one of the larger employers in Belleville and is a very sensitive and good employer. From time to time it asks the employment office to hand out forms for job applications. The last time this was done was in 1980-81. Through this procedure their lists are upgraded. As they need to hire more employees they refer to that list of applicants who have previously been screened. They then call people to come in for final interviews before hiring. They did not have 500 jobs; they were only handing out employment application forms. They had perhaps two or three dozen jobs over the next few days.

The point is, Mr. Speaker, that between 3,000 and 4,000 people, some of whom slept outside of the Canada employment office overnight, wanted a job. When people are prepared to do that it gives us some idea of the need for employment and the lack of consideration for employment which is evident in my part of Ontario.

I would like to make a very simple and small point which illustrates the lack of concern by the Government. Yesterday I received a letter from the President of Northern Telecom, a gentleman I know very well. In his letter he indicates that the Department of Communications has put in place a standard for telephones known as CS-03. Because Canadian manufacturers are meeting the costs of complying with the standards they are paying a penalty. They are at a competitive disadvantage in their home market against foreign suppliers who cannot or do not bother to comply. This has the undesirable effect, in terms of the Canadian economy, of tipping the scales in favour of imports. This in turn means that jobs go out of Canada. This is evidenced in the following reference:

Offshore manufacturers whose products are allowed to sell in Canada without complying with the CS-03 are putting Canadian consumers at risk and Canadian jobs in jeopardy. Some 800 jobs have been lost since 1981 in Northern Telecom's plant in London, Ontario, because sales of the telephones it makes have been declining in the Canadian market.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the Government is not interested in enforcing its own regulations. Thereby we have foreign products coming in which do not meet Canadian standards and are taking away Canadian jobs.

About one year ago I spent a good deal of time speaking in the House about the problems of Stephens-Adamson. There was a great deal of debate as to the quality of the product needed to move the coal in western Canada and about a \$20 million contract. A Canadian firm was the only company in the world capable of building that particular piece of equipment at that time. Its bid was low and it was on time. It