

What about the young people in this country? What about university students, students at technical institutes and vocational institutes who were promised when they finished high school, "Well, John or Jane, what you have to do is go to university and get a degree, and if you get a degree there will be a job for you"? There is a very fine university in my constituency. Simon Fraser University has some 9,000 students. The B.C. Institute of Technology is in my constituency, as is the Pacific Vocational Institute, so I have had much personal experience with some of the problems that young people who have graduated from university are encountering.

● (1650)

I want to say that recently I attended the convocation ceremonies at Simon Fraser University and I had the opportunity then to speak with many of the students graduating from that fine university. Too many of those students, when I asked them what their plans were for the future, shrugged their shoulders and, in many cases, with an air of despair, said they simply did not know. In many cases not only students but, as I indicated earlier, their parents have sacrificed a great deal to put their children through university or through another educational institution, and they find that there is no pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, there is nothing to the great myth of a job at the end of the road. After those sacrifices are made and the education is completed, we tell them there is nothing for them. We tell these people who have skills to offer and who desperately want to work that we have no place for them in this society.

I tell these graduates of the Simon Fraser University, of the B.C. Institute of Technology, and of the Pacific Vocational Institute, to ask Liberal cabinet ministers and Liberal members of Parliament what their policies have done for those young people, how their policies have assisted those young people in finding jobs. Let them ask what kind of disgraceful policy it is to uncover, as we have now learned through the hon. member for Lincoln that, as has been suggested by the hon. member for Sarnia and others, people who have somehow taken advantage of the unemployment insurance program need, perhaps, a kick in the gut.

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, I know that the hon. member does not honestly wish to mislead the House, but let me say to him that that statement was never made by me about youth or about anybody in Canada. I indicated in an interview that Canadians had not had a kick in the gut the way the Americans had, who had to line up for gasoline. At no time did I make that reference to the youth or to Canadians.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): I recall vividly the incident to which the hon. member referred. Indeed he did refer to the fact that Canadians have not had a kick in the gut, the inference being that perhaps that was what we needed. I say to Liberal members opposite that that is the only reasonable inference that can be drawn by the unemployed. When the former minister of employment and immigration said that

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Canadians have not had a kick in the gut like the Americans have had, what kind of inference can be drawn in this context by the people about whom we are talking, people who are out of work? Whether or not he intended that, I can tell the former minister that it was certainly the implication which was drawn by many people who were in the unfortunate situation of being out of work. If Liberal members opposite, who are laughing in glee at this situation, can stand up and explain how Liberal economic policies have done anything whatsoever to alleviate unemployment in the country, I would be delighted to hear them at the conclusion of my speech.

As I said, the election in the future will tell a different story. Canadians see very clearly that there is no difference between the economic policies of the Liberals and the Conservatives. I have a very interesting document here—

An hon. Member: Next time Burnaby.

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): There is a suggestion made by an hon. member opposite. I invite the hon. member with an open mind to run in my constituency in the next election campaign.

I have an interesting document which I would like to draw to the attention of the House since we are talking about economic Liberal and Conservative policies, and once again I would welcome comments from Liberal members in particular at the conclusion of my speech on any differences there might be between the two. This is a document which has been circulating recently among caucus members of the Liberal party which is intended to be a policy statement at the Liberal party convention which is to be held in Winnipeg. Of course we know that the Liberal party has always been somewhat short on policy, and we see that the authors of this Liberal document have expressed some concern about the fact that at this point the Liberal party has no policy. For example, at page three of the document—I say this in the context of this important bill on unemployment, Bill C-3—it is stated:

As Liberals, we have a feeling for who we are and what we stand for, but we have often been hard put to describe it.

Surprise, surprise! It goes on to state:

A statement of the Liberal philosophy in one document, together with the application of the philosophy to the central issues facing Canadians today and the years ahead, would be of great value.

We have here an admission that there is no Liberal policy in this country so far. Instead, we have what I, as well as others, called on occasions a finger-in-the-wind policy. In other words, a good Liberal sticks one finger up in the air and feels for the prevailing winds, and from whence those winds come so also come the policies of the Liberal party. So when the winds shift slightly in direction, we see the Liberals shifting in their policies. That would be fine if, as one hon. member is feebly yelling from the back, it were the will of the people. The problem is we have seen far too often that the winds which we are talking about are the winds of the establishment, the winds of the corporate elite, the winds of those people who financed the party opposite, because we have seen all too often that he who pays the piper calls the tune, and those who pay the Liberal piper are none other than that corporate establishment