

*Supply*

It comes out of his last statement that suggested that the member for Davenport could do nothing but knock this government and, therefore, that was putting this country down.

I want to ask the minister when this government and its ministers started to identify themselves as "this country". Across this country, there are millions of Canadians who would like nothing better than to affirm their country by kicking this government out as fast as possible.

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the question is there, but I will tell you that there are more millions across this country who will not vote for the NDP in the next election. That is for sure.

**Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park):** Mr. Speaker, in the one minute, I have a very serious question for the minister.

The minister knows my riding of Parkdale—High Park. He knows that Stelco, which manufactures nuts and bolts, is closing and all the workers will be unemployed.

The John Inglis plant that used to employ a lot of my constituents has closed, but I do not think we are into an argument here why the plants are closing, et cetera.

What I would like to ask the minister very sincerely is: What help can I give my constituents who come to me during appointments, produce 30 or 40 letters that they get from companies where they have applied for jobs, including McDonnell Douglas, and get refusals.

They then go to the CEC for retraining. They come back to me and say: "The earliest I can get retraining will be in a year or in a year and a half".

These people want to work. They show me letters of how they tried to get jobs. They have gone to the Canada Employment Commission, and they cannot get them. I am sincerely looking for assistance for these unemployed, not only in Parkdale—High Park. I am sure he has them. We have them across Canada.

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Speaker, there is nothing enjoyable at all about being unemployed. I have been. I know exactly what it is like. It is extremely difficult. When I was out of a job in the early 1960s, all I did was start knocking on doors. I just kept knocking and knocking. I

got turned down an awful lot of times, but finally one opened. It was not a job that I really wanted to take, but it was the only thing available at the time. I took it. I eventually got back into my profession, the job that I was trained to do. I eventually got back to it.

All I can say to people is to keep trying, to keep trying and keep plugging. I have the same problem in my constituency in Brampton, where people come to me and ask for advice. And that is all I can tell them, to keep plugging and to keep trying.

We cannot train every single unemployed person, unfortunately. We do not have that kind of money and the hon. member knows that. That is why there are line-ups waiting for retraining today. We are putting more and more money into retraining. Through the unemployment insurance program now there are going to be hundreds of thousands of additional dollars for training. We are doing as best we can, as much as we can afford.

But the Canadian people are also telling us: don't raise our taxes, don't increase the deficit, and for heaven's sake toe the line. So, there has to be a balance there, and I believe the Minister of Finance has found that balance.

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I want to say first that this motion which has been put forward today by the Liberal Party is a motion which we will support. We will not support it because it covers what we feel to be a complete approach to dealing with the problems of this economy. We noticed, for instance, that many of the tax measures which we think have to be made fairer in this country, which come out of years of both Liberal and Conservative budgets, are not talked about in the Liberal motion.

We notice too that there are problems with the lack of commitment on the part of the Liberal Party to get us out of the free trade deal, which is hurting so many people across this country. We will not in any sense be endorsing the motion that is in front of us as a solution to the recession, but we do think that it expresses the lack of confidence that Canadians across this country feel in this government. It is a lack of confidence which emerges with tremendous force as you talk to people in city after city across this land, as our economic recovery group in the New Democratic Party has been doing.