

One of the most telling observations of this survey was that in innovative orientation, we are 16 out of 22 countries. We have fallen from 13 to 16 in that ranking. Those are some of the measures we have to address and those are some of the attitudes we have to change.

For the reasons I have outlined, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski):

That all the words after the word "that" be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"This House condemns the Government and rejects the budget for its failure to adequately address the human tragedy of unemployment and increasing an already unmanageable deficit while, at the same time, imposing an even greater tax burden on Canadians.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, I must say that today Canadians are recovering from the recovery budget. I believe that one thing is perfectly clear. While the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) listened to very many people as he prepared his budget, he heard very, very few people. He heard a very selected few. He certainly heard from the investment community. They had something to tell him and he listened very carefully. We see a budget that reflects that viewpoint. But he also heard from the Progressive Conservatives and accepted many of their recommendations, suggestions and advice.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that what we have today is a budget brought down by a Liberal Minister of Finance that is essentially a Conservative budget. What is a Conservative budget? It is a budget which means that while two million Canadians are out of work today and two million Canadians will be out of work tomorrow and two million Canadians will be out of work this summer and next winter and two million Canadians will be out of work next year, there will be a handful of Canadians that will be doing very, very well, thanks to this Conservative budget.

This is a budget that Canadians did not want at this particular time. This is not the kind of budget that Canadians were watching their television sets and listening to their radios to see and to hear. They did not want to see and hear a Conservative budget introduced in the House of Commons last night. They wanted a budget that would provide some very clear, strong, bold economic leadership for this country.

The people of Canada were hoping finally to see some direction given to economic development and progress in this country. They were hoping to see a very clear economic statement made that would show the way for Canadians so that Canadians in every region of the country and from every walk of life would have a clear idea of where this country is going.

But the people of Canada got nothing, Mr. Speaker. They got a "do not take action" budget. They got a "do not stimulate the economy in any significant way" budget. They got a "do not provide economic leadership" budget. What the people of Canada received was a Conservative budget. The budget

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simply takes the status quo, makes a few simplistic manipulations, moves it up for the next year or two, and then waits to see.

A number of people in the New Democratic Party have described this budget as a wait and see budget: wait for the economy to turn around in the United States and then see if Canada can move into economic recovery on the coattails of Mr. Reagan's policies.

**Mr. Waddell:** Same old story.

**Mr. Riis:** That is right. As my colleague for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) has said, it is the same old story. It is a wait and see budget. We are to stand back and not take any action ourselves. We are to wait for others to solve our problems. We have been doing that for decades. For decades we have been expecting others to solve our economic problems. We have been waiting for the Americans, the Japanese, the Germans and the Swiss to solve our problems.

Canadians want to solve their own problems. They want to take action now. They were expecting a Government that would provide them with that kind of action and leadership.

The Minister of Finance came before us and presented a budget that ignored Canada's number one overwhelming problem, the fact that so many Canadians cannot find work. Too many Canadians are relying on UIC today. Too many Canadians are relying on welfare. Too many young people will be unable to find jobs this summer. That is a tragedy in a country as rich as Canada. Hundreds of thousands of young Canadians have been studying in vocational schools, upgrading their education in colleges, universities and specialty schools. To get to the job market and not be able to take those new skills and knowledge and put them to work for the country is a tragedy. That destroys a young person; dashes morale. They lose heart and become disappointed. It is not the kind of thing on which countries are built.

● (1540)

What is the Government's response to two million people being out of work and 900,000 young Canadians coming on to the job market in the next couple of weeks? It claimed to have a stimulative budget which would provide \$4.8 billion for the private and public sector over a four-year period. Why was that not spread over a 20-year period or a seven-year period, Mr. Speaker? It was a sham. To spend \$4.8 billion over a four-year period means \$1.2 billion per year. That is the amount we spend every single month on UIC. Could we not do a little better than that for a job creation program? It is a pitiful gesture, Mr. Speaker.

Why were UI benefit periods not extended or assistance provided for people who are losing their homes because they have been laid off or are just getting back to work? There was no assistance in the budget for those people. We are told that we have to accept these high levels of unemployment and that we have to accept the fact that we are going to have the number of employed in the country actually decrease this year.