

Many Canadians are indifferent. Many Canadians are hopeless in terms of their economic livelihoods.

When we talk about \$160 billion, the person who is unemployed in my riding cannot help but think why we could not utilize some more of those moneys in terms of stimulating the economy and stimulating economic growth and with that growth jobs. What is so wrong with the logical feeling one gets when one looks at \$160 billion?

What about individuals who are looking for some retraining but are told by employment offices across the land that the training funds have all dried up? Then they watch their television sets to forget about the real world and they see government advertising. About what? About its great training programs.

What about individuals who want to learn a job, a trade? Why can we not be like other modern countries and put in place effective apprenticeship programs? We would be saying that they do not need a university degree to be a somebody, that a university degree is as good as a plumbing certificate, a carpentry certificate, or a tool and die making certificate.

What about the transition programs that this government promised after having signed the free trade agreement with the United States? Those programs are needed when workers become displaced because of the free trade agreement. The agreement went through. People were displaced. But we are still waiting for those transition programs.

In a study done by the Montreal Board of Trade of my province of Ontario, the manufacturing capital of this country, some 400,000 jobs were lost. Most of them were in the province of Ontario. In my own metropolitan city of Toronto 8,000 firms have closed their doors with a direct loss of 63,000 jobs. Another 33,000 jobs were lost because of industry and companies beginning to size down.

We have a situation that is serious. It did not accrue somehow last week and we are complaining about it this week. The government says: "Give us a chance. Let's analyse it. Let's go back to the drawing board". This recession, this malaise, has been in some regions of this country more than others for a very long time.

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It is frustrating to be a member of Parliament in the opposition. We are not sure where a parliamentary majority starts and finishes or where a parliamentary dictatorship starts and finishes in terms of trying to bring to the equation a number of variables that we feel are important.

Maybe there is something to aspirations of Canadians who hope for a minority Parliament or a minority government the next time around because it is the most accountable government Canadians have come to know. Nothing is a better lesson than the last eight years.

We talk about \$160 billion of expenditures by the national government. It seems to me almost ironic that we are debating this tonight. Yet day and after day we have a government that continues to tell us in the opposition on behalf of Canadians that it cannot afford to stimulate the economy, that it cannot afford to have increased training, that it cannot afford to have transition programs, that it cannot afford to do apprenticeship programs and that it cannot afford child care, all under the pretext of the deficit. We are not preaching fiscal irresponsibility, nor is any Canadian advocating that we be fiscally irresponsible. But as my colleague said previously, there is a role for a national government to play. There is also a role for national governments to play in the economy. It would seem logical to me that some stimulus, some incentives are an investment in the future, that they would bear some fruit. We spend \$30 billion a year to keep people on unemployment insurance and when they are finished their unemployment insurance we tell them to collect welfare, and they collect another \$12,000 on welfare.

Canadians want to work. Canadians want to regain their dignity. Canadians want to be productive. Canadians want to be part of building Canada. They do not want to be part of the soap opera crowd that stays at home watching television, then goes down to their local unemployment office to collect a cheque. There is no dignity in that. There is no satisfaction in that and there is no satisfaction for those who are fortunate enough to be working and also paying for those services.

I will wind up my 10 minute remarks by saying that we are voting tonight on expenditures of \$160 billion. Clearly there was room in this national government budget to help Canadians go back to work and to help Canadians help themselves. By helping themselves they