

*Government Orders*

jobs, instead made cutbacks in unemployment insurance. I consider them antisocial.

Another measure that I did not expect from a first federal budget, following the speech that I delivered about the Senate, is the lack, in that first federal budget, of concrete measures to promote job creation, except for the infrastructure program. We have nothing against the infrastructure program, but that program only meets about 3 per cent of market needs. There are 1.5 million unemployed in Canada, including 450,000 in Quebec, and all we have to offer them are 45,000 jobs. Mr. Speaker, these 1.5 million unemployed Canadians will fight for the 45,000 jobs available; there will be violence.

• (1030)

I also noticed that since the first and second readings of Bill C-9, this government has taken no concrete measure whatsoever to create jobs, permanent jobs in reasonable quantity and of reasonable quality. Everything concerning the creation of jobs has been dealt with in a shameless fashion. I am talking here about the Job Development Program where the government recently made some cuts.

Another measure in the first Liberal budget which I could never have imagined coming from the Liberal Party of Canada is the abolition of the age credit. This government, those Liberals shamelessly reduce credits for seniors, they who used to denounce in the strongest possible terms any intention on the part of the Tories to take away from the seniors or any attempt to de-index their pensions or even cut them as was the case in the beginning. I thought these people were sincere and I now see that they never were. Under the guise of a social democratic approach, a humanistic approach, they have fooled the people of Quebec and Canada, and they will pay for that.

Nor was I expecting a \$2.5 billion cut over three years in Established Programs Financing, especially in the portion earmarked for post-secondary education. Members on the other side of the House—I am looking to see who is present today—keep talking about education, they keep telling us that education is of extreme importance in order to face present challenges, to face the growing competition that results from the globalization of trade. But they cut into funding for post-secondary education.

Nor did I expect that the government would renege on a commitment made at the beginning of last year by the Liberal Party of Canada, maybe even in 1992 if I remember correctly the first statements regarding social housing. When the Conservatives cut the \$600 million budgeted for the construction of new social housing units, the Liberals said that they would restore this financing, that they would start afresh with a new social housing development program. When they assumed power they

quickly forgot that promise, and ignored the 350 persons who demonstrated in Ottawa three months ago to ask for decent housing conditions, for a dignity they lost a long time ago. These 350 persons were spending anywhere from 30 to 50 per cent of their income on housing, at least. This is intolerable, and even more so when you hit a stone wall like the one that the Liberals put up.

After giving hope to low income people I consider it indecent that the Liberal government is not coming through with a program, thus dashing the hopes of these people.

Analysing Bill C-9 at third reading gives me a chance to discuss, as I did at first reading, the whole vision of the government that tabled this budget. I realize the government does not have a vision and will never have any. Why? It is the same basic question over and over again. Everywhere in the world, in any democracy, when there is no clear and democratic law providing for public financing of political parties, there is always the risk that the ruling party, upon taking control, will be unable as a government to make real decisions, good decisions such as abolishing all the fiscal inequities of our system.

• (1035)

I remember very clearly that when Liberals were the Official Opposition they denounced almost daily the inequities of the federal fiscal system. They denounced tax evasions. They even denounced family trusts. They were probably trying to win over supporters of the New Democratic Party, which has almost disappeared since then. Along with members of the New Democratic Party, Liberals denounced the fiscal inequities of the Canadian fiscal system.

However, since the last budget, nothing was done to redress the situation. Family trusts still exist enable very rich families to avoid paying between \$350 million and one billion dollars a year to the federal Treasury. The same is true of numerous agreements between Canada and countries considered tax havens. They still sign the same kind of agreement; they still have regulations allowing businesses with parent companies in such tax havens to pay hardly any taxes on their profits, while the losses they incur in these tax havens can be deducted from profits made in Canada.

Knowing what the position of the Liberal Party of Canada has been in the past, I cannot understand why they are doing the very thing they were denouncing when they were the Official Opposition, and why, after deceiving us for so many years, they are now totally lacking in vision and concern for social justice.

In his recent budget, the finance minister did nothing along the lines of what we recommended during the first debate on Bill C-9. Worse yet, he managed to do even worse than all the previous Conservative budgets. Within three months, his budget, totally devoid of any sense, lost all credibility; even