

That quotation is from the *Globe and Mail*, September 22, 1988.

Then when the Senate took the extraordinary step of referring its daycare bill to a committee—or I guess he thought it was extraordinary—it was characterized by the Prime Minister as obstruction. The fact that we waived our rules and referred the bill to committee the day following first reading apparently was of no consolation to the Prime Minister who was worried about the women and children of Canada. “What the Senate has done is already obstructive”, he declared. “Working women need these spaces tomorrow”, he said.

In one of the most exquisite examples in recent political history of crocodile tears, Mr. Mulroney pined over the fact that working women in Canada were “suffering substantially” because of the Senate’s actions. That was said in a radio interview on September 28, 1988.

What has changed? Are Canadian women no longer “suffering substantially”? Has their situation so improved since 1988 that daycare legislation is no longer needed from this government?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, we have had to set priorities and we have set them by putting another \$2.1 billion into child benefits over the next five years. We have also proposed a new and more efficient way of delivering those benefits. I intend to draw attention to that aspect of the budget when I speak later today in opening debate on the inquiry, which I put on the Order Paper the other day.

It should be pointed out that the federal government already spends about \$1 billion annually on child care under the Canada Assistance Plan through tax assistance and training allowances. The honourable senator will also be aware that in the budget we have increased by \$1,000 per child the child care expenses tax deduction.

In answer to the honourable senator’s question about the federal-provincial or national child care program, in setting our immediate priorities, as we have had to do, we do not plan at this time to introduce a new program of federally-provided child daycare spaces.

**Senator Frith:** Honourable senators, having waited since 1984, I suppose we can wait till later today, and even the women of Canada will perhaps be prepared to wait till later today for the explanation of why they do not have daycare legislation.

## THE ECONOMY

### EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT—GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Hon. Stanley Haidasz:** Honourable senators, several times in this place I have brought to the attention of the Leader of the Government in the Senate the record numbers of bankruptcies and closings of factories with many of the plants moving down south, and causing unemployment to 1.5 million people in this country. Every day we hear bad news.

I was shocked, as I am sure other honourable senators were, to learn late last night that General Motors of Canada is laying off, “temporarily”, 7,300 workers in Oshawa, and that in Oakville, Ford is laying off, “temporarily”, 2,000 workers. That is a total of 9,300 workers from the Toronto area.

Can the Leader of the Government in the Senate tell us when the government intends to do something to kick our economy into motion so that these people can again be employed and an end put to these daily layoffs and closings of plants which are driving many people into hardship?

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Can the Leader of the Government in the Senate tell us what is wrong? Does he lack advisors? Does the government lack initiative or ideas to put these people back to work and to stop the hardship?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** The honourable senator refers to layoffs in the automotive industry in Canada. He will surely be aware that these are part of a very substantial downsizing and layoffs that are taking place in the automotive industry throughout North America. The announcement that General Motors has made concerning Canada was part of an announcement that was of much greater impact in their United States plants. Therefore the honourable senator should not try to infer that the problems in the automotive industry are unique to Canada.

Having said that, so far as government policy is concerned, we will have an opportunity, beginning today, to debate the budgetary address of Mr. Mazankowski. Without anticipating that debate, I simply wish to remind Senator Haidasz and other honourable senators that the budget forecasts the creation of half a million new jobs in this country between now and the end of 1993, and one and a half million to 1997. Further than that, the honourable senator will be aware, as I have reminded the house on several occasions, that virtually all of the private sector forecasts, both nationally and internationally, are to the effect that Canada will lead the industrialized world in economic growth this year and in employment growth over the medium term.

**Senator Haidasz:** Honourable senators, the people of Canada have been hearing about the forecasts of the government for the past 12 months, and the economy, instead of getting better, is getting worse, with more unemployed and more hardship in this country.

Does the Leader of the Government in the Senate believe that the people trust the government, believe in the government, and believe that the government’s forecasts will come true in the future?

**Senator Murray:** Honourable senators, again, the record in terms of government forecasts and in terms of economic growth and employment has been very good.

**Senator Haidasz:** My God!

**Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition):** You should save some superlatives.