

policy of the Government of Canada, which supports the fiscal policy of the Government of Canada, which supports the free trade agreement, which supports deregulation, which supports privatization, which supports trade. That is what the OECD says. That is also what the Economic Council has said.

**Mr. Gauthier:** No, no.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** The hon. member is saying no. If he would read what the Economic Council has said—I have read it—he will see that they do support the policies. They are saying they would like to see the deficit down and what has the Liberal Party of Canada ever done to say—

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

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• (1440)

### THE ECONOMY

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Mr. Speaker, this is an example of where pig-headed vanity replaces economic reality in this country.

The Conference Board of Canada report makes clear today that this government's economic policy, specifically the policy of the Minister of Finance, is needlessly driving tens of thousands of Canadians to the unemployment lines in the face of the winter of 1990. The Conference Board says we are experiencing our first ever made-in-Canada recession, created, authored, made by this government, this Prime Minister and this Minister of Finance.

**Some hon. members:** Shame.

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Why is the Government of Canada insisting on completely eliminating government support for the unemployment insurance fund? It is the complete elimination of \$2.7 billion of government support, at a time when the Conference Board of Canada tells us that tens of thousands more Canadians will join the 1.5 million already unemployed in Canada and in need of support this winter from the UI fund? Why the cuts?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand the hon. member talking out of both sides of his mouth. I

remember a made-in-Canada recession that began in 1981 and it was the worst one that this country has ever experienced.

Let me say as well, Mr. Speaker, that for him to talk about unemployment insurance benefits when what is happening in the other place is a disgrace to his party and to the Parliament of Canada is absolutely talking out of both sides of his mouth.

**Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the same minister, who would be aware that fishermen and plant workers on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts are being savaged because of her continuing and stubborn refusal—this is not a matter for the Senate—to bring in a simple amendment to the Unemployment Insurance Act—

**Mr. Crosbie:** Speak to the Senate.

**Mr. Simmons:** You would like to think so.

The Canadian Labour Congress and fisheries union on both the Atlantic coast and the Pacific coast have said today that unless the minister brings in this amendment, tens of thousands of people will wind up on welfare.

In the name of basic compassion, will the minister instead of blaming it on somebody else in the other place, will she relent and bring in the amendment like her government has done for the past five years, like governments have done for the past 14 years in this House?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, all the grandstanding that is going on on the other side of the House is not going to help the people who are in the fishing industry in this country. Let me point out, first of all, that under Bill C-21, which is the bill that has been stuck in the Senate since last November, we have fisher people who are not affected and they will be better off when Bill C-21 is passed.

**Mr. Simmons:** VER, Barbara.

**Some hon. members:** VER.

**Mrs. McDougall:** The VER will not help the repeaters, the seasonal workers, the people over 65 and the people looking for maternity benefits.

**Some hon. members:** VER.