

seen its unemployment rate go up since September of 1984. Where are all these jobs, jobs, jobs?

Over the course of the parliamentary session I have listened to statistics spewed forth by the Government. It is always careful not to mention the 14 per cent unemployment in Prince Edward Island. Given this statistic, the Government's actions are nothing short of astounding to Prince Edward Islanders and, indeed, to all Atlantic Canadians.

We all know that the national unemployment rate has been reduced to 7.8 per cent down from 11.7 per cent in September of 1984. That is good. However, it is important to note that the Canadian Government benefited at that time greatly from a buoyant U.S. economy. Prior to the recession and under a Liberal Government the national unemployment rate was 7.5 per cent. Thus we are really no better off today than we were six years ago.

Newfoundland's present unemployment rate is 14.5 per cent. Nova Scotia's unemployment rate is 10.4 per cent while New Brunswick's is 12.2 per cent. Although these rates have been reduced, they are still much higher than the national rate. Given the Government's newest agenda, these rates will surely go up.

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The Government has had almost five years to bring the federal deficit under control. It slips in and out of its promises of reduction. Now the Government is back on to it again. Canadians are sick and tired of having to pay a continually increasing price for government mismanagement. This is quite evident as reported today in the national media. Consumer confidence has sunk to its lowest level in five years. If the results of the recent provincial elections in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island have not sent a clear message to the federal Government, then yesterday's Angus Reid poll should. Fifty-seven per cent of Canadians feel that the April Budget was unfair. They feel that their personal financial situation will be worse and that the provincial economy will suffer. It is obvious to most Canadians that the Government has gone too far.

Given that 50 per cent of Canadians feel that our economy is going to get worse, one would be correct in assuming that now is not the time to revamp the unemployment insurance program. What this legislation does in real terms is eliminate the Government's portion

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of money formerly committed to the program. The Government is blatantly turning its back on the poor of this country. Based on current UIC spending, the elimination of federal financing will cut between \$1.3 billion to \$2 billion from the \$13 billion program. Under the Government's proposed plan, there will be a reallocation of 10 per cent amounting to \$1.3 billion. Of the \$1.3 billion UI expenditures forecast for 1990, approximately \$800 million will go toward human resource planning and skills upgrading of the labour force.

A strong labour force strategy depends on a sound, full employment policy that supports research and development, post-secondary education and literacy initiatives. The more basic an education a person has, the easier it is to retrain. Given that in the near future almost half of the new jobs will require more than five years of combined education and training beyond completion of high school, the Government should be developing a comprehensive full employment policy.

Various labour, business and community groups have expressed outrage toward the Government's proposed UI changes. They firmly believe that these changes will lead to a drastic reduction in the number of unemployed people becoming eligible to receive UI. At the same time, Canadians feel that the proposals fail to address the facts, that the number of unemployed is poised to increase as a result of the Free Trade Agreement, high interest rates, not to mention the multitude of Budget cuts. These groups feel that the federal Government should be concerned with the expansion of the unemployment insurance safety net.

In addition, they firmly believe that the Government's proposal to pay increased amounts of money for enhanced training is not the correct approach. This is based on the principle that current job creation is in the low-paying dead-end service sector. Privatized training that subsidizes companies does little more than train people to fill low-paying jobs. Regions of Canada, similar to Atlantic Canada, can expect to suffer the most. My province of Prince Edward Island has an economy that is based on three major industries, namely, farming, fishing and tourism. They are all seasonal industries. A significant percentage of our labour force is dependent upon these seasonal industries. Why then would UI be important to P.E.I.? The answer is simple. One cannot fish