

Borrowing Authority Act

young people in the United States. But I do not want to totally take away credit from the Government totally because I am so happy to see any recovery happening at all. I would also like to point out that it is a false approach, a sham, for the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to throw figures at us when we bring our concerns about the existing unemployment rate for young people to him.

That is what I am talking about. It is not fair to throw figures at us about what happened during the recession to show how things are now. It is not a decent answer in the House of Commons to a question as to what the policy of the Government is going to be in dealing with present day unemployment for youth. We cannot accept the present levels of unemployment. Something must be done or we will lose a generation of young people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Resuming debate.

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, when I decided to speak during report stage of this Bill, the one thing I did not want to do is to get caught in the middle of a spitting match between the Bobsy Twins from Bay Street. That little exercise is in fact a portrayal of two sides of the same coin. We do not have to go back to Mackenzie King. We had the Right Hon. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who came in with a lot of good will, charisma and intelligence in 1968. He had written books, taught at a university and had a radical background of fighting for justice for workers in Quebec. But after a very short time in office, we in the Sudbury Basin as well as my colleagues in British Columbia, had the spectacle of the then Prime Minister of this country giving the finger to unemployed workers at Salmon Arm and Sudbury and, indeed, right across the country. He is a man whose respect for his colleagues in the House of Commons led him to state that Members of Parliament were nobodies once they were 200 yards away from Parliament Hill. In his book entitled *Up the Hill*, a former Cabinet Minister of the defeated Liberal Government tells us that the former Leader of the Liberal Party really was a one-man show in making decisions.

Mr. Heap: How about "fuddle-duddle"?

Mr. Rodriguez: He was the same person who said "If you think 6 per cent unemployment is high, you just watch me". We saw that former Prime Minister fight inflation on the backs of the unemployed. He was the man who said at Banff that it was still possible to scare the hell out of Canadians with high unemployment. That is just in the recent past. We are not going back to Mackenzie King. We are just going back to the Liberals' former Leader.

On the Conservative side, we have a man who ran in an election campaign in 1984 promising that he would not reduce the deficit on the backs of poor people. He made all sorts of promises about things he said were sacred trusts. Everything was a sacred trust. He is now the Prime Minister. I recall that when interest rates were rising during the initial time of the Conservative administration we were being told: "Well, there

is really nothing that we in Canada can do because our economy is so closely tied to the American economy. Naturally, if its interest rates are going up, ours have to go up". How is it that members of the Government can rise and take credit when rates are falling? Of course, they cannot. Our interest rates are falling because American interest rates are falling. If American interest rates start rising, Canadian interest rates will rise. That indicates to me that there is still no difference in the economic policy of either the Liberals or the Conservatives, the "Lib-Cons". There is no difference between the "Lib-Cons". We still do not have a "made in Canada" interest rate. We still do not make economic decisions based on the needs, hopes and aspirations of Canadians.

It does not matter whether it is the Right Hon. Pierre Trudeau or his clone, the present Prime Minister, they both have brought the same basic ideological mentality to the job of leading the country. I heard the Hon. Member for Dollard (Mr. Weiner) say: "We created 500,000 jobs". I was reading the other day in one of the journals that in fact what has happened is that the bulk of the jobs the Government is calling new jobs are really part-time jobs. I hear groans. Well, I want to put on the record a specific example from my riding. We have a Sears Company in my riding. Sears had full-time workers. What it did was simply to take five full-time workers and cut their hours down to less than 15 hours a week. It then went out and hired five more part-time people. So on paper 10 jobs were created, but there are really no 10 jobs. I have known of miracles, and being of that tradition I know that two loaves and five fish could be made to feed 5,000 people, but for the Government to take five full-time jobs, create 10 part-time jobs and call it creating "a lot of jobs", I find hard to believe. They are not the kinds of jobs which existed before because they are part-time. Of course, the reason that was done is that once these people are on that minimum number of hours a week, the company does not have to pay unemployment insurance premiums and a lot of other benefits. Statistics Canada has reported an increase in so-called jobs, but most of these new jobs are part-time jobs.

Mr. Weiner: Eighty-three per cent are full-time.

Mr. Rodriguez: And they are low-paying part-time jobs.

We are faced with three serious problems. Unemployment is one problem. We still have over one million people unemployed. We have to face the whole question of the base of one of our western provinces, namely, the energy sector, the oil industry in Alberta. That is a very serious problem. This Government went to sign the Western Accord saying: "The private sector is the engine of growth. We have to go to the market-place". But we have heard all of that before. It is like phoning the Bell Telephone Company, finding the line busy and a recording saying: "This is a recording". We have heard that recording before.

Look at what has happened in Alberta, Mr. Speaker. We have the reality of an economy which could very well be devastated. But what does the Government announce? It is