

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, June 5, 1992

The House met at 10 a.m.

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*Prayers*

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### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

#### SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 81—ONTARIO ECONOMY

**Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River)** moved:

That this House condemns the government for its negligence toward the worst social and economic difficulties faced by residents of Ontario in modern times.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have an opportunity in this House to debate an issue that is of great concern to all residents of the great province of Ontario.

The issues touch on national interests, of course, but the residents of Ontario have particular reasons now to fear for their futures and to question the attempt of the government to manage their economy and their social planning, the infrastructure of the economy. They have very real fears.

In an effort to ensure as full a debate from the Liberal opposition side today in this relatively short day, we will be asking that we split our times.

• (1010)

I want to make reference to the motion itself. It says:

That this House condemns the government for its negligence toward the worst social and economic difficulties faced by residents of Ontario in modern times.

Anyone who doubts the seriousness of the economic crisis has only to visit the streets of Toronto, of Sudbury, of Thunder Bay and look at those who are unemployed, who are losing all they have built around them over the last many years of prosperity and to see the fear in their eyes.

As we speak today, we are reviewing the new monthly unemployment statistics. These days, this is a bad news item every month. But Statistics Canada tells us that the unemployment rate in Ontario is 10.9 per cent. It is a double digit figure for the first time in a long, long time.

We are not the only province with double digit unemployment. Ontario has been the engine of the national economy, assisted by all the other regions. The engine of the national economy has now struck double digit unemployment with apparently no end in sight. There is no light at the end of the tunnel because this government is not doing anything. This government is taking the hands-off approach of letting the private sector solve our problems and it is not working.

The unemployment rate in Toronto is 11.2 per cent. Promises over the last few years of jobs, jobs, jobs and sacred trusts are simply not believable any more. There has been a renegeing by the Prime Minister on those promises. Ontario, Toronto, and our national economy are paying a very high price.

There are two specific issues I want to address relative to metropolitan Toronto. They relate to the economic and social planning envelopes. One of them is urban crime and the other has to do with federal non-funding of immigration and refugee settlement.

On the urban crime issue, in our metropolitan area in Toronto we are seeing a decaying of neighbourhoods. For the first time, we are seeing what I would call a criminal block-busting of neighbourhoods. The criminal block-busting relates to the crack house phenomenon. That is the situation where there is no landlord and the criminals and drug pushers move in and take over a house. That brings prostitution, more drug pushers, drug purchasers and petty thieves who want to finance their drug habit to the neighbourhood.

That is decaying and destroying neighbourhoods in which people just like all the members in this House of Commons live in. Ordinary neighbourhoods are falling victims to this criminal block-busting.