

cratic government in the province of Ontario is absolutely irresponsible.

I call on the premier of that province and of that government to reconsider and to give working and middle-class Canadians in my riding and countless other communities in metro a legitimate break. They have been paying too much for many years and now the New Democratic Party is forcing them to continue to pay those illegitimate costs.

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### TORONTO ECONOMY

**Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, employment in the Toronto region is now just over 90 per cent of its pre-recession level. In the rest of Canada employment has returned to 99 per cent of its pre-recession level.

The Toronto region represents one-sixth of Canada's population and about one-fifth of its total economy. Therefore Toronto must recover before Canada will truly return to prosperity.

The economic downturn has however created an opportunity. The fall in commercial and industrial real estate prices has made the region much more internationally competitive than it was during the late 1980s. Metro Toronto wants to take advantage of this by building a new international trade centre. A new trade centre in Taipei boosted the entire economy of Taiwan. A new trade centre in Toronto can do the same for the Canadian economy.

Hopefully our government will be prepared to help Toronto to help Canada.

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### HUMAN RIGHTS

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair):** Mr. Speaker, fair is fair and some issues should never be partisan.

Just as Jean Pelletier was wrong in his judgment about politics and race, and his views condemned, so too should be the views of those who have explicitly agreed with him such as that self-styled New Democratic pundit on CTV.

We should condemn as well the parliamentary secretary—remember the member for Athabasca—and his Tory colleagues on the employment and immigration commit-

tee who not only acted in an unusual way to suppress from public view testimony concerning discrimination in the Immigration and Refugee Board, but proceeded to treat the witnesses in the same inappropriate way about which refugees too often complain.

All of them are wrong. All have sullied the image of the Canada that I love.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am taking nothing away from the matter which the hon. member raises. While names were not named, I do not think it would be very hard to identify them. The imputation of motive was certainly very strong in the statement.

I listened carefully but I would ask hon. members to be very careful when they are making statements to keep in mind the strictures which bind us and that there should be no personal attacks in member's statements.

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### LOBBYISTS

**Mr. Scott Thorkelson (Edmonton—Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the Earncliffe Strategy Group appeared before the Standing Committee on Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

An allegation was raised by the Earncliffe group concerning the objectivity of a member of the press corps. It was alleged that Mark Kennedy, a reporter from *The Ottawa Citizen* had contacted Gordon Ashworth, who is the campaign director for the Liberal Party, concerning recent articles Mr. Kennedy wrote about the relationship between lobbying firms and government.

Mr. Kennedy pointedly asked Mr. Ashworth if Michael Robinson, a member of the Earncliffe Group and also affiliated with the Liberal Party, was upset about the stories that had appeared in *The Ottawa Citizens*.

When Mr. Ashworth replied yes, indeed, Michael Robinson was less than happy about the coverage, the *Citizen* reporter stated that Mr. Robinson should not be upset because, and I quote: "the purpose of these stories was not to get to the Liberal Party but in fact to embarrass the Tory government".

It is small wonder that the Canadian public is disillusioned with politicians when stories are written or fabricated by the press corps with the express intent of embarrassing the government.