

*Adjournment Debate*

**Mr. de Jong:** I distinctly recall looking at the clock and I began speaking when it was 20 to six, Mr. Speaker.

● (1800)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I am told by the Table that the Hon. Member started to speak at 5.39 o'clock.

**Mr. de Jong:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to request the unanimous consent of the House to finish my remarks.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. de Jong:** You guys are not very nice or polite.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. That has taken care of the last minute. The hour provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired.

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## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 45 deemed to have been moved.

LABOUR CONDITIONS—UNEMPLOYMENT RATE LEVELS—  
REQUEST THAT BUDGET BE INTRODUCED. (B) CHALLENGE '85—  
WAGE SUBSIDY COMPONENT. (C) UNEMPLOYMENT IN EASTERN  
CANADA

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, on February 8, 1985, I asked the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) a question concerning the unemployment situation in Canada, not only with respect to Canada as a whole, but with respect to unemployment in the different regions across Canada. It should be noted that in January, 1985, despite the rhetoric of the Minister of Finance and other senior Ministers, an additional 167,000 Canadians were added to the unemployment rolls. Certainly, that does not speak very well for the Government's policy with respect to reducing unemployment, and creating wealth and economic opportunities for Canadians.

The Minister of Finance said that he needed more time to introduce a Budget when I posed the question. I cannot understand why the Minister is waiting any longer. When I asked the question, the Minister of Finance stated, as reported at page 2144 of *Hansard*:

The Budget will come after we have had the opportunity to discuss with the First Ministers, next week in Regina, the ideas which they have on economic policy and which they feel should be reflected in our Budget; and also after the national economic conference.

Well, both of those events have been completed and, indeed, some of the participants have alluded that they were successful both in Regina and Ottawa. I believe that the Minister of Finance, in a very deceitful way, is reluctant to place the

Budget before the Parliament of Canada before the election takes place in the Province of Ontario. There must be serious consideration given to the motives of the Minister of Finance for not being forthcoming in putting a Budget before the Parliament of Canada.

The youth unemployment rate in Canada is in excess of 15 per cent. I believe that to be totally unacceptable. It is unacceptable to Her Majesty's Official Opposition, Canadians throughout Canada and those young Canadians in the various regions of Canada who want an opportunity to participate fully. Let me quote what the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said when he was Leader of the Opposition at an East Pictou high school in Nova Scotia, adding insult to injury. The Prime Minister was speaking about youth in Canada and he said:

You are our most priceless possession—thoughtful and intelligent youth.

What has the Conservative Government done for young people in this country? I would suggest that it has done absolutely nothing to assist young Canadians, whether they live in Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario, western Canada or, indeed, the North, in terms of improving employment opportunities.

The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss Macdonald) had the audacity to come before the House of Commons and suggest that wage subsidies were the answer for creating employment opportunities for young people. That is utter nonsense. As of today, the Minister of Employment and Immigration has studies on her desk which unequivocally show that wage subsidy programs do not assist the young Canadians who live in the poor regions of Canada. Second, 60 per cent of those jobs would be created anyway with or without wage subsidy programs being initiated by the Government of Canada.

We need a long-term, thoughtful and meaningful strategy to attack unemployment in Canada. There is no strategy. The Government has adopted the buzz-words and the rhetoric used by the President of the United States, that somehow the private sector will create all the jobs that are needed in this country.

● (1805)

We have heard the Minister of Employment and Immigration stand in her place and say that she had commitments from some major Canadian companies on summer employment. Only 24 hours later that was denied by the private sector. Yes, they want to create wealth and jobs but they cannot do it alone. But this Government is acting on the basis of Voodoo economics, just as the U.S. did.

I suggest the Government is being less than candid with the people of Canada. The Western Accord! What a sham. We are giving \$1.3 billion to the multinational oil companies but the Government cannot provide \$13.5 million to the Maritime Farmers Council who are in desperate need of emergency funding. Shame on this Government. It refuses to table in this House an impact study in relation to the statement by the Minister of Finance in November of 1984. The Government refuses to tell us whether or not it has done such a study