

Routine Proceedings

commitment to regional development is that it has juggled the books, it has cooked the figures.

What it has done with transfers to provinces through Established Program Financing is change the formula. EPF is there to transfer funds for things like health care so that it does not matter if one is in Newfoundland or British Columbia or Alberta or Nova Scotia, one will have the same access to quality health care whether in a have or have not province. We believe as Canadians that they were some of the basic things, the glue that held this country together.

What has the government done by changing the formula by which it determined what amount of costs are shared? In 1992 alone in the province of Nova Scotia it has decreased the level of funding for hospitals by \$111 million.

We have a program for post-secondary education that transfers funds to equalize opportunities so it does not matter where one lives in this great nation, the province will be able to afford quality post-secondary education. The Tories jiggle the formula.

Nova Scotia in 1992 received \$46 million less. My God man, we are a province of only 900,000 people. We have a diminishing tax base. The bunch opposite have destroyed our fisheries. They have caused a recession to take place that has left the province of Nova Scotia with the highest levels of bankruptcies in its history.

In 1991, because of this government's economic policies, in the province of Nova Scotia we had one business or personal bankruptcy for every 305 men, women and children.

The government has laid waste to the promise of resource based industries in Atlantic Canada. Yet every time it is raised here, ministers get up and deny, deny, deny and tell everybody that things are going to be much better.

• (1950)

Unemployment, think about it. Five long years ago this government fooled the people. It got elected by saying it was going to address the real problem in this country. It was going to put people back to work. Tell that to the people who live in North Preston in my riding. Tell it to the people who live in Eastern Passage. Tell it to the

people who live in Cape Breton and Newfoundland where unemployment rates are as high as 40 per cent.

Tell them how much better this government's policies have been. Tell them the country is better off at the end of this Parliament than when it began. They will say that the last five years of government in this Parliament have been five solid years of despair, extinguishing the hope of every Canadian that tomorrow will be a better day.

There are university students in my area whose fathers and mothers have never been laid off. Those parents now have no jobs. The little nest egg that was put away for a rainy day is gone. The students cannot go to university. Tuitions have gone through the roof because of federal government economic policies.

What does the government do? Does the government come in with programs to put Canadians back to work? Does the government address the underlying problems in the economy caused by its own policies? No. On at least three occasions the government has come in and attacked the unemployed, not unemployment. It has come in and said: "If you do not have a job, that is your problem, Jack. You must be trying to rip off the system".

The most recent changes that the government tried to pass were changes that would have seen the amount of benefit decreased and the length of time one could collect decreased in the middle of the worst recession we have ever had. However, the amount of weeks that one needs to qualify for unemployment insurance increased.

In short, what the government has done is it has made the poorest of the poor and the most disadvantaged in this country pay for the folly of its economic policies.

We have seen the national debt go through the roof. This bunch opposite just cannot count. The Tories down in my riding will probably have somebody run who will say: "Give us one more chance. We will do it right this time. We know how to control the debt". If anybody in my riding was off in projecting their household budgets as many times as these guys opposite were they would be on the bankruptcy rolls. That is what would happen.

The national debt is a disgrace. But what is even more disgraceful is that the government has absolutely refused after four and a half years of despair inflicted upon Canadians to go back to the people to give the people