

Government Orders

Copps	Crawford
de Jong	Dingwall
Duceppe	Duhamel
Edmonston	Ferguson
Finestone	Fis
Fontana	Foster
Funk	Gaffney
Gagliano	Gardiner
Gauthier	Guarnieri
Harb	Harvard
Harvey (Edmonton East)	Heap
Hovdebo	Hunter
Karpoff	Karygiannis
Keyes	Kilger (Stormont—Dundas)
Langan (Mission—Coquitlam)	Laporte
LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso)	Lee
MacAulay	MacDonald (Dartmouth)
MacLaren	MacLellan
MacWilliam	Marchi
McGuire	Mifflin
Milliken	Murphy
Nowlan	Nystrom
Ouellet	Pagtakhan
Parker	Peterson
Phinney	Pickard
Plamondon	Proud
Prud'homme	Rideout
Riis	Robinson
Rocheleau	Rodriguez
Rompkey	Samson
Simmons	Skelly (North Island—Powell River)
Skelly (Comox—Alberni)	Stewart
Stupich	Vanclief
Waddell	Walker
Wood	Young (Beaches—Woodbine)—90

PAIRED—MEMBERS

nil/aucun

Madam Deputy Speaker: I declare the motion carried.

• (1630)

[*Translation*]

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from February 18, 1993, consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski that Bill C-113, an Act to provide for government expenditure restraint, be now read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Human Resources envelope, and on the amendment of Mr. Bevilacqua (p. 16117).

Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne): Madam Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to speak in the debate on Bill C-113. First of all, I would like to say that my colleagues did an excellent job of putting the facts before the members of this House.

I would like to consider the vision and logic behind the proposed amendments. Like survival, good government means adjusting successfully to new situations. The proposed amendments provide for reasonable adjustments in a program that Canadians support. Canadian workers depend on unemployment insurance to help them if they lose their jobs.

It is up to our government to ensure that the unemployment insurance program remains in place to help Canadians. The program must be sound, affordable and fairly administered. This bill is based on the equity principle. It also deals with responsible choices and the desire of millions of Canadians to achieve a reasonable standard of living by working in a positive and productive environment.

These proposals reflect an approach that is aimed at guaranteeing the solvency of the unemployment insurance account. The proposals reflect the fact that the unemployment insurance fund depends on contributions made by honest citizens and businesses across the country.

Just as we protect ourselves against certain eventualities by taking out life insurance, car insurance or fire insurance, Canadians contribute to the unemployment insurance fund to protect themselves against unforeseen periods of unemployment. If people become unemployed due to circumstances beyond their control, they have a safety net. That is what unemployment insurance is for. No reasonable person—

Mr. Plamondon: You are going to be on UI yourself.

Mr. Robitaille: The hon. member for Richelieu says we are going to be on unemployment insurance pretty soon, but I think it is he, quite frankly, who will certainly get his benefits.

As I was saying, no reasonable person would expect an insurance company to pay if he set his own house on fire. Unemployment insurance is not meant to be a source of income as such. It is a safety net for Canadian workers. The government is now trying to ensure it will remain available to those who really need it.