

having the stature to express their very strong support of this Government initiative. It is my hope that they will, over the coming months, see it appropriate to express similar support for many of the other fine initiatives the Government is taking.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, in his speech to which I listened very carefully, the Hon. Member mentioned that his constituents would rather have a full-time job than receive the benefit of rich social programs. I wonder if the Hon. Member could elaborate on what he or his constituents would define as a rich social program.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the question is not really what is a rich social program. It is a decision that my constituents face as do most Canadians. The choice is between being solely dependent on social programs for their economic livelihood or being gainfully employed so that they, like many Canadians, will not be dependent upon any number of programs. Given a choice between being a Canadian who is the recipient of a social program such as the guaranteed income program, about which the Hon. Member may want to speak, and being a Canadian who is gainfully employed, my constituents, like all Canadians, prefer to take the option of being gainfully employed.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, I do not think anyone in this House or in the country rejects the notion that there should be the option of jobs for those who want them. In respect to income support, that does not come from the Government of Canada but from the people of Canada. Often we in this House tend to forget who actually pays our bills.

Would the Hon. Member agree that it does not make economic sense for the head of a male-led two-parent family on social assistance who is receiving in addition to that a medical plan, a drug plan, eyeglasses, and other fringe benefits, to take a job that paid an amount equal to the social assistance payments but did not provide the fringe benefits? That individual would be forced to choose to remain on social assistance and would not have the opportunity to take a full-time job.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, in the course of my remarks, I attempted to make the point that I was not simply talking about employment but I was talking about employment that would meet the economic needs of Canadians. What my friend is outlining, of course, is a dilemma that is faced by many low-income Canadians. I know that the preference of many would be to go to work because the answer is not only determined by what makes good economic sense. There are people who will make that decision based on other factors like personal pride and social considerations and who might, notwithstanding the direct economic benefits of not going to work, nevertheless go to work.

● (1750)

Indeed, it is a complex question. I am advocating a job which provides an income to these needy Canadians, a job

which permits them to meet their needs. Obviously, we do not want a disincentive.

Mr. Waddell: I would like to ask the Hon. Member a question, since he comes from Atlantic Canada and since the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) is in the House today.

I wonder what he thought of the remarks of the Minister of Transport when he talked about the economy of the Hon. Member's region. It seemed to me that he talked about its being like Bangladesh and the Third World. Is that the way the Hon. Member perceives the economy there?

An Hon. Member: That has nothing to do with his speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway) rises on a point of order which I could foresee.

Mr. Redway: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have been called to order myself in making a reference, asking a question, or making a comment on a speech of another Member that has not been relevant to the contents of that Member's speech, or to the Bill, for that matter, that we are debating today. I would ask Your Honour to rule out of order the Hon. Member with his comment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Prior to making a definite decision on the matter raised, I must admit I do not recall what the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) asked the Hon. Member for Cape Breton Highlands—Canso (Mr. O'Neil). I do not recall any reference to that in the speech of the Hon. Member for Cape Breton Highlands—Canso, to my knowledge. However, I will listen for a minute to the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway.

Mr. Waddell: Surely, they do not have child tax credits in the Third World. I would like to know if that means that the Government will expand it or will go back, because there is some insinuation of a Third World economy. What about jobs?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I will allow the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway to rephrase his question.

Mr. Waddell: Given the fact that the Minister of Transport did apparently make reference—and he can correct me if I am wrong—to Atlantic Canada having a Third World Bangladesh-type of economy—I wonder how the Hon. Member sees that type of economy—presumably the hon. gentleman was speaking for the Government—fitting in with the view he advocated in his speech about jobs and expanding social benefits.

Mr. Redway: On a point of order—

Mr. Crosbie: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There are all kinds of points of order. First, I will recognize the Hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie).