I also have a question for the Member. She does not seem to realize that this argument concerning eligibility has been waxing for 18 months. Members of the Progressive Conservative Party, Members of provincial legislatures, and other public officials have pointed out time and time agin that the Government responded to the concerns expressed publicly by Members and others and referred the matter to the Forget Commission. They are coming to the post too late. Can they get that through their heads? The decision has already been made. The matter has been referred to the Forget Commission. I do not remember the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez), the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly), and certainly not the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps), appearing before the Forget Commission, as did the Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley-Hants (Mr. Nowlan) and myself, and asking it to make a recommendation now. We asked it to file an interim report and send it to the Minister so that a decision could be made now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Some Hon. Members: Point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I believe we have four points of order. Order, please. The Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) on a point of order.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, I know the Hon. Member would not want to leave on the record anything that is misleading. He said I did not appear before the Forget Commission.

An Hon. Member: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Rodriguez: Listen before you decide. I did appear before the commission, and here is a copy of the brief which I will send to the Hon. Member.

Ms. Copps: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I do not consider that a point of order. Is the Hon. Member ready to answer?

Ms. Copps: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Unlike the Hon. Member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby), my world does not revolve around Ottawa. If he had a chance to look at the hearing presentation for Friday, January 31, in the great City of Hamilton, he would have been aware that I made my presentation long before the travelling road show arrived in Ottawa.

He talks about people who are living off the fat of the land and getting pensions. Does he really think that the 9,577 widows and orphans who receive an average pension of $4,875 from the Canadian Armed Forces should not be allowed to receive unemployment insurance benefits to that amount? It is deducted from their unemployment insurance benefits. Does he feel these widows and orphans are living off the fat of the land? If he does, he is so out of touch that I am sure his electors will want to remind him of that in the next election.

Mr. Skelly: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) could clarify this point. If I understand the Government's position, it is that anyone who was concerned about this issue should have raised it years ago. Many Members of this House have raised this issue in letters to the Minister and in questions in this House. Members have appeared before the Forget Commission to make these points. Certain Members of the Government are participating in the debate tonight, although not many of the thinking and clear-sighted Members. They are saying that they are going to vote against this motion because we should have raised this issue some time ago. The fact that they are ignorant on this issue is not a reason to vote against the motion. Arguments have been made in this House today about the basic unfairness of this situation and the fact that the need for that transitional income is critical. Would the Hon. Member agree with that perception of the Government's role here today?

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, who I know wants to speak on this issue but has not had a chance because Ministers have been ragging the puck on other issues, and others have been raising this issue ever since it was introduced in the Economic Statement in November, 1984. I have written letters and raised it in the House. I appeared before the Forget Commission. If government Members truly believe in the spirit of reform, then they will throw off their Party shackles and the notion that they are simply Party hacks or book-ends and vote as their individual conscience dictates. If they do, they will vote in favour of the widows, orphans, unemployed and older workers and against this cruel and unjust measure proposed by the Government.

Mr. Redway: Mr. Speaker, I listened attentively to the Hon. Member. She, like myself and all Members, particularly those on the government side, truly believe that the Forget Commission will provide us with very helpful recommendations in order to solve the entire problem. This problem has of course developed over many, many years, primarily during the time of the Government by the Party of which she is a supporter. However, like all of us, I understand she is truly concerned about those who might be suffering while we are awaiting the recommendations of the Forget Commission. I hope some Members of this House will calm down so she can hear me and I can hear what I am saying.

She has pointed out that she is aware of a number of individual cases where people have actually lost their home or are on the verge of it. She indicated she would be prepared to table that information. I would like to ask her if she would do that. Certainly all government Members would be most willing to be of assistance to anyone in that situation. We would be very eager to help to solve that sort of problem. Perhaps the Hon. Member would be kind enough to table names, addresses and other details so that members of the Government could be of help here, too.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I am most happy with the spirit of goodwill expressed by the Hon. Member. However, unfortunately that same spirit has not been expressed by his Govern-