

The Budget—Right Hon. J. N. Turner

The next issue is foreign aid. Canada's partnership in the development of many of the less-developed nations is placed in jeopardy in this Budget. In an astounding about-face from previous commitments, the Minister has cut the aid budget by \$1.5 billion over five years. The target date of 1990 to reach .06 per cent of the GNP in foreign aid has been put back five years to 1995. I believe this is a serious betrayal of Canadians who feel we have a moral duty to come to the aid of those countries where people are starving. We have a duty to share, even under the pressure of budget control, with the less-favoured nations of the world who need food and clothing. Frankly, there are thousands and thousands of Canadians who are revolted by the fact that the Government has turned its back on some of the less-favoured areas of the world.

What has the Government done about job creation for youth? The word "youth" or the words "young people" were not even used in the Budget. They were not even mentioned, not a single time.

[Translation]

And in the estimates, the next day, the Minister of State (Youth) (Mrs. Champagne) was eliminated, the Minister of State (Youth) is now invisible, silent, anonymous, a ghost Minister, a Minister stricken right off the estimates—

Mr. Gauthier: That's it! No budget!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): It is the new way to reshuffle the Cabinet, Mr. Speaker. Sensational! There is no need to sack the Minister, she gets no money! That is very subtle indeed, and I must warn my friends in the departments, the other Ministers, to be very careful! Perhaps there will be supplementary estimates, and I say this to my friend from Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle) whom I know very well. Beware lest you wake up one morning with no money, no office, no civil servants, no limousine! A ghost Minister, the Minister of State (Youth)!

[English]

Yet the Senate study, endorsed by Senators of both Parties unanimously, reminded us that there are 700,000 unemployed youth. This is potentially a lost generation. What has the Government's response been? Cutting education transfers to the provinces. Denying young people the opportunity for training. Cancelling our First Chance Program. Transferring the problem to provincial Governments. Another broken promise, another dream denied. We are all going to pay a very heavy price for that.

Rather than take positive action about unemployment, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) loves to boast about job creation. He says 580,000 jobs have been created since his Government took power. Obviously he sent the script to all his Ministers because you can ask a question about the price of coconuts and still get the answer: 580,000 new jobs. They get up and all you hear is the whirring and flapping of the flippers from the trained seals. Boy, do they read out the script.

Mr. Siddon: You don't like the message.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I do not blame the Prime Minister for not being here to try to defend the Budget. He is spending most of the time on the road trying to rake over old coals and attack my record as Minister of Finance and me personally.

Miss Carney: That is not hard to do.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I do not think too many people will buy it. I would love to entice the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) into a little debate, but the truth is that this Government has not yet matched my record from 1972 to 1974.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I hate to have to put this on the record but the sleazy attacks of the Prime Minister force me to do it. In that period of time, when I was Minister of Finance under Mr. Trudeau, we produced 631,000 jobs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): We can all play this game. That was done from a smaller labour force base. The unemployment rate averaged about 5 per cent or 6 per cent. Regional unemployment was substantially lower. The Prime Minister likes to give the impression that unemployment problems are solved. Yet the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), in his document, abandoned the target of 7 per cent to 7.5 per cent as full employment. As my colleague, the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East (Mr. Allmand), has pointed out, the target is now 9 per cent. All that litany we have had recited day after day in this House overlooks the fact that regional unemployment is high. In Quebec it is 11.5 per cent; in British Columbia, 12.9 per cent; in the Atlantic provinces, 15.4 per cent. As the Hon. Member pointed out, too many new jobs are now part-time jobs. Too many people are unemployed for longer and longer periods. The number of people unemployed for more than one year and no longer eligible for unemployment insurance has doubled since the end of the recession. Unemployment among our young people hovers around 15.9 per cent.

I rejoice with the Prime Minister that many Canadians have found new jobs, but surely he has to realize, as do all Canadians, that we have a long way to go. We have a long way to go to bring those figures down and reach a stage where anyone in this country who wants to work and is legitimately seeking work can find a job, that is full-time employment, and we should not be boasting about anything short of it.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has almost enticed me to go at another one of the Prime Minister's statements.

Miss Carney: Go ahead.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I would like to correct another impression. The Prime Minister said in Kitchener that I inherited a surplus and left the deficit. I want to tell him that