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In contrast, last week before the Empire Club of Toronto the Leader of the Opposition outlined a comprehensive approach to stimulating economic growth. He proposed ideas on how to create meaningful and lasting jobs. He also emphasized the need for skills training, a sound trade policy and the need for federal and provincial fiscal co-operation.

Our leader reminded the government of pursuing a balanced monetary policy, one that would create growth and not one mired with the sole obsession of fighting inflation.

Finally, he challenged the banks to make it easier, not harder, for businesses to obtain financing so they could once again become risk takers and job creators.

Unlike the Conservative government which is unwilling to abandon a failed and flawed economic agenda, our leader and our party are promoting ideas and generating alternatives so Canadians can once again believe in themselves and in their country and create the confidence and hope we need to revive and sustain a healthy and vibrant economy for Canada.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. Ken Hughes (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, many people of the Crowsnest Pass in the riding of Macleod were put out of work by the closure of the Westar Balmer Mine in southeastern British Columbia last year.

A recent board of referees decision provided full UIC benefits for the employees. At that point rumours began circulating in the affected communities that the Government of Canada would appeal that decision, thus denying employees their full UIC benefits.

I spoke to the minister of state directly and indicated that the only fair course of action would be for the government not to appeal that decision. I now understand that the department will let the decision stand and that employees will receive full benefits.

On behalf of the hundreds of families in the Crowsnest Pass and the Elk Valley, I thank the minister for hearing our concern and responding to the needs of our communities.

THE ECONOMY

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, over the weekend the finance minister called Liberal policies flimflam. The former finance minister says they are baloney.

Well those two, Flim and Flam, should know because for the past eight years they have foisted their flimflam on Canadians: record deficits, 1.5 million without jobs, tax breaks for their wealthy friends.

The rich get their tax-free steaks to eat while the poor can hardly afford baloney because Dracula I and Dracula II have sucked them dry. Flim and Flam have brought this country to its knees and driven hundreds of thousands of people to welfare.

It is no surprise that Flim and Flam blow a gasket every time they hear the Leader of the Opposition talking about getting this country back on track and putting Canadians back to work.

Why do Flim and Flam not wake up to the reality that nobody is listening to their flimflam any more and quit the baloney?

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TORONTO ECONOMY

Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, Canada's employment peaked in June 1990. Since then Toronto has lost nearly 10 per cent of its employment base while Canada as a whole has lost about 3 per cent.

Almost one-half of the jobs lost in Canada were located in the Toronto area. If Toronto is excluded the rest of the Canadian economy has now almost fully recovered. Employment in the rest of Canada today is almost 99 per cent of pre-recession levels, but because of Toronto's size, the Canadian economy will not fully recover until Toronto improves.

This Friday, February 19, metropolitan Toronto is holding an economic summit. Representatives of all levels of government will be there to demonstrate their recognition of the critical role Toronto plays in Canada's economic recovery, but actions will speak louder than words.