

*The Budget*

My question for the hon. member is as follows. He knows that over 1.5 million Canadians are unemployed. No doubt he has the same experience that the rest of us have in our constituency offices day in day out, week in week out. Hundreds and thousands of people in our constituencies are unemployed. I would like to know what advice he gives to the unemployed in his particular constituency in the Kitchener area.

Does he comment as he commented today about what this government is doing, or does he give any other specific advice? Does he tell his constituents that they must have patience, that they need not worry about the rent or the mortgage payment or where the next food bill is coming from, that because these so-called fundamentals are in place perhaps his constituents might have a job in six months' or a year's time?

I would like to know specifically what advice he gives to the desperate unemployed in his riding who come to his office seeking help.

**Mr. Reimer:** Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest difficulties I think all of us as members face is when some of these people, particularly the older ones say in their mid-fifties to close to sixty, come to our offices. That is the group where I have the greatest difficulty in giving any advice. To that degree when the member asks his question, and I will take it as a serious question, there I have great difficulty answering that one. For many of those people retraining is very difficult, if not almost impossible, in various types of work. That is the group where I really have difficulty responding with specifics.

I try to do what I can. Sometimes I have been successful. We have an organization in Kitchener that is called 55 Plus which the government has assisted in the past through my interventions on its behalf. That has helped some of these people.

For many of the younger people, the answer has to be that they should get themselves better training.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Questions and comments are now terminated. On debate, the hon. member for Saanich—Gulf Islands.

**Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add my voice to the debate on the budget. I hope to inject some efficiency in this as I only have about five minutes before the bells start to ring.

• (1740)

The last budget was supposed to be offering some hope to Canadians. We have 1.5 million unemployed people in Canada and they were looking for direction from this government to give them some hope. Unfortunately, once again, those people were overlooked.

In my riding of Saanich—Gulf Islands there is a huge housing crisis. My community has the third most expensive housing prices in all of Canada after Toronto and Vancouver, and when you consider the salaries earned in my riding compared to those other centres, my riding has the most expensive housing in all of Canada.

What does the government do to respond to this? It eliminates co-op housing; it eliminates social housing. This is done with no consultation with the provincial government at all. Having just had the five-month grand tour on the constitutional issues and recommended that there not be a devolution of federal powers to the provinces without some consultation, it is tantamount to an abdication of federal responsibility.

What is the provincial government in British Columbia to do for those people who are desperate for housing, the young families, the older people, the native people, the disabled people?

The municipal affairs minister in British Columbia has pointed out that we are going to be losing over 900 units in the next two years. That is a \$70 million loss in construction and 500 jobs. Is this the Tory way of creating jobs? I can see why they are at 11 per cent in the polls.

There are two projects in my riding that have fallen through the gaps. These are people who have nowhere to live, and this government once again fails them.

Another issue that is very important and on which I have had phone calls from my constituents is the elimination of the Court Challenges Program. I have before me a letter from former Supreme Court Justice Bertha Wilson in which she points out that on numerous occasions she has expressed the view that it is totally