

Excise Tax Act

from deterioration. It is incredible but oh so typical of the Conservative Government once it is in power.

What is the federal Government going to do with unemployment insurance, something which workers in the country have fought for for years and which is paid for by the employees and the employers? It will be charging more. The workers will pay 15 per cent more in premiums. The benefits will be harder to get and will not last as long. Unemployment premiums will increase to \$2.25 from \$1.95 per \$100 earned. The Government of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) will withdraw entirely from the program to save \$2.9 billion. That will destroy the whole purpose of the unemployment insurance program. This program has proven over and over again that it is a very important safety net. We are glad that it now includes some parental benefits and the coverage for workers in seasonal jobs. It is important that the federal Government subsidize those extra benefits, as needed.

• (2320)

Nearly one million Canadians will be partly or completely denied benefits under the new scheme. The rationale of the Government is that this will induce attitudinal and behaviour changes in the unemployed. That is ironic. I am sure the unemployed workers in Vancouver East would not feel this is an incentive when there are no jobs for them in many cases.

In passing, I want to mention the sell-out of the B.C. fish processing industry. That is another burden.

I could go on to refer to many other aspects of the Budget but, in summary, the Government has made many promises and could have chosen other ways to deal with the deficit, including the reduction of interest rates and a full employment program that would contribute more to the income of the country.

However, it has chosen almost every way imaginable to hurt Canadians, particularly average and low-income Canadians. Its tax measures are particularly regressive. The cuts in services are unconscionable and are definitely related to the Government's commitment to the Americans under the trade deal.

This year, 1989 is a sad time for Canadians, but it will get worse. It is a sad time for students who cannot afford post-secondary education. It is a sad time for parents who are struggling to raise a family and cannot get help

with child care. It is a sad time for unemployed workers who paid into the plan and expected coverage. It is a sad time for elderly people who have contributed so much to this country and have earned their full pensions. Regardless of their income, there should be a universal old age pension.

It is a sad time for people in remote areas and in the North who are losing railway services. Fuel costs and phone costs are being increased. It is a sad time for minorities, women and native people who need a strong voice.

It is a very sad time for those Canadians who voted Conservative in the last election because they have been betrayed. Tory promises have been broken by this nefarious Budget, the worst Budget in Canadian history.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): In my opinion, the yeas have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Call in the Members.

During the ringing of the bells

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I seek clarification. I presume the bells are now ringing to draw Members to the House for a vote. If this is what is going on, I want to say that according to my recollection it is the first time in Canadian history that a vote has been called on a closure motion prior to the designated hour at one o'clock.