

of years, the situation with respect to the United States, which will only make matters worse, has not been taken into consideration.

The Estimates give the message in detail of cut-backs that will hurt ordinary Canadians. Those cut-backs are a compromise of Canada's future. Those cut-backs reflect the commitments made under the Free Trade Agreement in areas such as unemployment insurance, which was seen as a subsidy by the Americans and to which the Canadian Government has responded in kind by agreeing that it is a subsidy and eliminating any indication of a subsidy by increasing the burden placed on workers.

**Mr. Thacker:** How many Canadians built your Mazda?

**Mr. McCurdy:** What Mazda? That shows you, Mr. Speaker, the compelling ignorance on that side of the House. They are worried about a single car, but they have produced a Budget that will mean that thousands of cars in my riding will not be built. The cars produced in Ontario are the cars which have been the engine of the country, and this Hon. Member is talking about a single car that does not exist in any other place but in his vacuous mind.

**Mr. Thacker:** It's the hypocrisy of you.

**Mr. McCurdy:** We hear the Hon. Member across the way talk of hypocrisy. Hypocrisy has been demonstrated in spades over the last couple of days. There has been hypocrisy with regard to the role of Parliament, hypocrisy with regard to commitments made to the Canadian people, and hypocrisy with regard to defence, most particularly. The Government is cutting Canadian jobs and preserving European jobs when \$1 billion could be saved by keeping the jobs in Canada and bringing the troops back home.

This is the beginning of the end for the market philosophy represented by the Government. It disregards equality. It disregards fairness. It disregards the real basis for economic growth. This is a Government that would impose upon the weak in order to meet the needs of the greedy who back the Government. The Canadian people will condemn the Government for its Budget and for the specifics contained in the Estimates.

*Statements by Ministers*

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[*Translation*]

**WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS**

TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, on this day, April 28, Canadian workers are paying tribute to victims of work accidents and to those suffering from occupational injuries or diseases. As Minister of Labour and on my own behalf, I join them in expressing my deepest sympathy to affected people and their families and in denouncing the unacceptably high number of accidents in the workplace.

In 1987, last full year for which data is available, 894 Canadians died at work and 25 million person-days were lost due to work accidents and occupational injuries or diseases. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that nobody can remain indifferent to that data. We must all join forces to ensure a safe working environment for all Canadians.

Any loss of life is unacceptable not only to the victim's loved ones but also to society. Work accidents entail direct and indirect costs of about 17.5 billion dollars a year. It is a very heavy burden on this nation.

The figures, though eloquent, hide the tremendous suffering of workers who are victims of accidents. I have met a lot of them over the years. Their physical pain is compounded by their inability to go back to work or to earn a living in a dignified way. We must help them.

Mr. Speaker, we must show solidarity and express our common will to fight against the scourge of work accidents.

[*English*]

April 28 has been chosen as the labour movement's day of mourning to commemorate workers who were killed, injured or disabled on the job. Work conditions and occupational safety and health have evolved greatly since Confederation. At the federal level, there were various pieces of labour-related legislation over the years, but a major step forward was taken in 1968 when the Canada Labour (Safety) Code was adopted.

Occupational safety and health are now fundamental to managing the workplace. The rights and duties of employers and employees are now embedded in our laws and regulations. For the federal jurisdiction, the Canada Labour Code is the main vehicle that we use to further the cause of occupational safety and health.