

*The Budget—Mr. Fox*

I have here an extract from the Montreal *Gazette* which quotes the minister as saying in Toronto, specifically in relation to the youth corps program, when asked how his proposals differ from the previous Liberal government's job corps, that participants would work for a year at minimum wages and create some services of lasting benefit. He then went on to say, and I am astounded that he would make this kind of comment, that the second difference is that the plan is not for middle class unemployed youths looking to coast along for a year, but for the chronically unemployed people. I think that is a crying shame.

We have \$50 million of public funds being expended to create employment for 16,500 Canadian youths, and this minister instead of trying to improve the program and motivate the young people to do things which are of value to their communities, as they are in a number of areas in the country, goes out and insults them.

Just yesterday I received a letter from the minister's colleague, the Solicitor General and Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Lawrence), telling me what a great success the Youth Job Corps program has been. He gave me as an example some programs that have been funded in my own riding. Why does this minister find it necessary to go out and insult the youth of Canada? That is really beyond me. If he wants to help them obtain jobs then I am with him and I will support him. Of course I wish him luck and success in his job-creation programs. I must say that to date he has not impressed us very much in that regard.

During the course of the debate last week when we were talking about another program, the Canada Works program which the minister has promised to eliminate and take completely out of the spectrum of job-creation programs, he went out of his way, along with his parliamentary secretary, to come out with a number of high profile projects that were unsuccessful, failures. Once again, the minister's job is to try to refine and fine tune programs, and to eliminate projects that are not successful. His job is to come up with projects that are successful. There is not one member who sits on this side of the House who could not point out to the minister a couple of highly successful programs in his own riding.

There are a number of members here from New Brunswick and from Quebec, particularly from the Gaspé area, who can point to wharves having been built, arenas having been built and community centres having been built, all with the help of Canada Works Program money being put into the hands of municipalities. What the minister is doing today is telling these municipalities that in the future they can no longer count on federal funds to help them meet local objectives.

In that regard I disagree quite fundamentally with the minister. He is putting all his eggs into one basket, and that basket is the private sector. He should put a substantial part of his program and proposals in that area, and I agree with that. That he should eliminate the public sector from job-creation programs, and eliminate the Government of Canada from a presence in ridings across the country, I fundamentally disagree.

[Mr. Fox.]

[*Translation*]

Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, we must conclude that after a few months in power this government has no idea of the directions in which to go when it comes to job creation and economic policy. What we have today is almost a joke, Mr. Speaker. Last Tuesday night, the Minister of Finance presented a budget in which he announced a whole series of measures whose sole effect will be to take an additional \$3.5 billion from the pockets of consumers across the country, and policies which will directly contribute to the destruction in the Canadian economy of over 135,000 jobs within 18 months.

Today, the Minister of Employment and Immigration to ease the ridiculous and pointless policies announced by his colleague, the Minister of Finance, announced a job-creation program which will not even create the same number of jobs as his colleague destroyed. That is why, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance was forced to indicate clearly in his budget of last Tuesday that despite all the measures that this government wants to take, the only effect between 1979 and 1981 will be an increase in the employment rate from 7.5 to 8.3 per cent.

**An hon. Member:** Economic activists—

[*English*]

**Mr. Fox:** The main problem with this budget and its lack of stimulus is that it will not be directed toward new hiring, or in the prevention of lay-offs. Only a Conservative budget could ensure rising unemployment at a time when the rate of growth in the labour force is declining. May I call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCain):** I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill C-29, granting Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending March 31, 1980.

It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock this evening.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

● (2000)

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.