

*The Budget*

Another amazing thing is that banks are now making fantastic profits on service charges. This budget did not touch the rich at all in this country.

I have long thought that it is all part and parcel, where the Liberals in the past have always very overtly put on an incomes policy called wage controls because they never controlled prices. My Liberal colleagues who are sitting to my right, appropriately, brought in wage controls right up front, even though they ran a campaign against it. That is another story, but they did it.

**Mr. Nunziata:** A material change in circumstances.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** A material change in circumstance, right on.

**Mr. Nunziata:** Do you want to talk about Bob Rae now and what he is doing to Ontario?

**Mr. Rodriguez:** The Tories looked at this experiment and saw that it did not work. We have to give them credit. They are very perceptive. They saw that this would antagonize the 11 per cent that support them and that it would erode them down to zero. What have they replaced it with? A new incomes policy. What is the incomes policy? We keep this inflation rate right down below 2 per cent. We let the economy just stay flat and we have this large pool of unemployed people. We keep a large pool of unemployed people. We squeeze them. We put them right on the edge of poverty and just squeeze them there.

It is obvious that when employers come to them and say "I'm sorry, it is either you take a wage cut or it is the door", they are much more pliable. If they come to them and say "you either cut back on your benefits or else you're out the door", they are much more pliable to do that.

There is a large pool of unemployed folk who are willing to work for whatever they are willing to pay. I have known some young people who are willing to work for nothing, just to get the experience. I have even known of a case where a person is paying the employer to give him the job.

I saw a sad case in the United States and I can see it coming here. I came off one of the highways in Fort Lauderdale and to a stop sign to go into the town. There

was an older woman standing with a sign around her neck saying: "Hire me please. I need to work. I am hungry".

What a plea. I can see that if we continue with the kinds of prescriptions that are in this budget that Dr. Maz and Dr. Crow have put on us, it is going to very quickly require the only people who are making money—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I regret the hon. member's time has expired.

**Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, we have just had a very entertaining speech from the hon. member for Nickel Belt.

The test of this budget is not going to be the way in which the opposition members condemn it, nor the way in which the government members praise it, but rather whether or not this budget gets the Canadian economy moving again so that it produces jobs, jobs, jobs.

• (1330)

Frankly, in my own riding we have been devastated by this recession. A few days ago eleven of my constituents came to see me. Seven out of those eleven were without work. These were people who had worked all their lives. They wanted to work. They did not want to be receiving welfare. They did not want to be receiving unemployment insurance payments, but they were. They wanted to get back to work but could not because there were no jobs available.

Across the street from my constituency office in the O'Connor-Bermondsey, East York-North York industrial commercial area, literally one-third of all the plants are closed.

It was because of that situation that I wrote to the Prime Minister on January 8, 1992. In that letter I said: "Among the 17 larger advanced industrial countries in the world Canada has the highest unemployment rate. This is clearly unacceptable".

The Prime Minister wrote back to me on February 24 and he said among other things: "I agree with you that the current level of unemployment in Canada is clearly unacceptable. Reducing it must be at the very top of our policy agenda".