

Supply

yesterday afternoon another \$150 million to try to alleviate the problem.

Rather than stand here and scream like a wild banshee, which makes us all look like jerks, it would be more proper for him to make representation to the government to ensure that some of that \$150 million in fact went to help those people he was talking to last weekend, instead of stirring up emotions like that which are totally uncalled for.

Mr. Boudria: I thank the minister for bringing up that particular topic, the one on the government's so-called announcements of yesterday.

First of all, the minister should have at least set the record straight. What the government announced yesterday was not \$150 million. It was \$95 million. The other was already there. That is just nonsense.

It is just like saying I have money, I count it, I put it in my wallet and I count it again. That does not mean that I have twice as much of money. Counting it twice or three times means the same thing. Even this minister should understand that.

Let us talk about how much money has been going to my riding for training. Last year the amount given for all UI programs combined—I could enumerate every single one of them here; I have two pages of them—for Prescott county, in my riding, when the unemployment rate was not nearly as bad as it is now totalled \$4,732,000.

This year—and I invite the member to pay attention—\$1.3 million instead of \$4.7 million. Two-thirds of the money has been cut off, I say to the minister across the way who was just bragging about how much more has been given to my constituents and others. Two-thirds of the money has been taken away.

I invite the minister to go behind the curtains, pick up the phone and phone the Hawkesbury Canada Employment Centre at area code 613-632-2759. The centre will set him straight. It will tell him. He just has to ask the people who work there. They have made a list for me of everything that has been received in 1991-92 and 1992-93. If we compare the \$4,732,697 of last year and \$1,310,479 of this year, it is less than a third. As a matter of fact it is just a little over a quarter of what we got last year.

How can anyone call that an increase? I invite the minister to dig out his calculator, figure out his new math, and answer that one.

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, I wish there was more time for us all to speak on our colleague's motion in the House today but unfortunately there is not. The motion, as we know, reads:

That this House condemns the government for its negligence toward the worst social and economic difficulties faced by residents of Ontario in modern times.

I have listened very closely to my colleague from the Glengarry—Prescott—Russell part of eastern Ontario. I understand what he is saying. Different areas of Ontario are hurt in different manners.

The Economic Council of Canada has warned that Canada must make some fundamental changes in the structure of our economy or risk losing many qualities of Canadian life we all enjoy and take for granted.

I have a letter here from a constituent. I think this is what my colleague is saying but somebody across the floor is not hearing. I would like to hear my colleague's comment. This person writes to me and says: "I am 42, unskilled, untrained and can't get a decent job. In fact I can't get anything. UIC won't put me on an on the job training program because I am not on UIC. I can't collect UIC because I was on WC for an injured elbow. My employer says he doesn't have to take me back and put me on a lighter job load"—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments are now terminated. Is there unanimous consent to allow the hon. member to finish?

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret there is not unanimous consent.

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate being given the opportunity to comment on the motion of my colleague from Scarborough—Rouge River today regarding the condemning of the government for the economic situation that we find in the province of Ontario, and indeed across Canada as my friend from Calgary South pointed out very clearly today.

It is not just Ontario that is hurting. It is the entire country. Coming from Ontario, the centre of Ontario, I am very concerned about the economic situation and