

follows dramatically in the steps of the special recovery Budget and the two should be seen as going hand in hand.

A few moments ago I mentioned that job creation and unemployment are major priorities for the Government. Let us take a look at what has been done in the Budget of April, 1983 and the Budget of February, 1984. There is a smooth flow of policy and economic thrust between those two periods. Over \$3.5 billion has been committed for job creation and retraining in 1984-1985. The bulk of that money was committed back in April. Additions were made to those commitments in the Speech from the Throne last fall. Then in this Budget an extra \$150 million was added to the Youth Opportunity Fund. The total package for this year alone is \$3.5 billion. That stimulus is working as a result of the commitments made last April, last fall and again in February. There is a smooth flow of policy throughout all of this period.

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In my riding, for example, at the Pearson Airport, a Special Recovery Project involves the expenditure of almost \$14 million. There is also a railroad grade underpass where another \$2.5 million is committed. In Mississauga South there is a third Special Recovery Project involving the expenditure of \$2.5 million. That total expenditure of almost \$20 million is a result of the April Budget and its impact is evident today. Workers in the construction industry in Mississauga are benefiting from the commitments made in 1983.

Additional work will be created as a result of the new commitments made last fall and again in the new Budget from Environment 2000. For example, in my riding again the Credit Valley Conservation Authority has asked for a grant of \$250,000 under the environment 2000 Program. That stimulus will come into our riding in addition to all the extra stimuli provided by the Special Recovery Program.

Mr. Shields: The slush fund.

Mr. Fisher: The Special Recovery Program, Mr. Speaker, was instituted last April and it is still working.

Mr. Shields: The Liberal slush fund.

Mr. Fisher: It started the recovery and now we are waiting to help, in addition, the private sector. The Special Recovery Program was aimed at the weakest sectors, the construction industry, for example, and it was aimed at the new productive technological sectors like shipbuilding, high technology and aerospace.

I heard the Hon. Member opposite say it was a Liberal slush fund. I invite him to come into my riding and talk to the people who received work as a result of that, and he will learn that that kind of contempt is not acceptable to ordinary people. In fact, he should know that at the meeting of the Canadian construction industry in Toronto, where I spoke last fall, many of the people there were from Alberta and each of them said that the Special Recovery Program was a major incentive for the construction industry. The kind of contempt demonstrated by the attacks by Hon. Members, such as the

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one who interjected just now, is not being accepted by the Canadian people. People want to see some action and some compassion on behalf of unemployed workers, and this Government is providing that.

All of this special recovery activity, Mr. Speaker, is having a good impact. Let us take a look at what the Minister said in his Budget, and I quote from page 1423 of *Hansard*. He said:

In my April budget, my goal was to secure the recovery. That goal has also been met. Growth has been stronger, inflation lower, and our employment higher than forecast last April. When we compare our economic recovery to that of other countries, Canada is faring better than most. Our economy, growing steadily and surely, is expected to be among the leaders in the industrial nations this year.

That is a direct quote from the Budget. There are some facts in the background documents which reinforce that claim. It is not a hollow claim. I will quote from a document entitled "The Canadian Economy in Recovery". On page 5, under the title "Economic Developments in Canada", and I will just skip over some of the quotations, the following is pointed out:

Real output is estimated to have increased 6.3 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1982 to the fourth quarter of 1983, almost recovering the 6.5 per-cent decline experienced during the recession. The growth in output was accompanied by a 3.4 per-cent increase in employment—357,000 jobs—in the four quarters to the end of 1983. The decline in the rate of inflation since the introduction of the 6 & 5 program in June 1982 gained momentum in 1983. By the fourth quarter of 1983, consumer price inflation was running below 5 per cent.

There are other statistics in here. For example, and I quote:

—real GNE is estimated to have increased 2.9 per cent in 1983.

—real consumption expenditures rose an estimated 2.9 per cent, in part due to a decline in the savings rate from a high of 15.1 per cent in 1982 to an estimated 12.3 per cent in 1983.

A little further on in this report, Mr. Speaker, it says, and I quote:

On balance, however, the over-all current account should achieve a moderate surplus in 1983 with net transfers continuing to move in Canada's favour.

Which is an observation which reflects very well on our trade performance.

I quote from page 7 where the report speaks about the Canadian dollar:

On balance, the Canadian dollar strengthened against the currencies of Canada's non-U.S. major trading partners, rising about 7 per cent from the end of 1982 to the end of 1983 on a trade-weighted basis.

The strength of the Canadian dollar and the continuing success on the inflation front allowed Canada more latitude than most other OECD countries in responding to international interest rate pressures in 1983.

That is contrary to the claims of the Hon. Member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson).

Finally, it states:

The lower levels and the relative stability of interest rates in 1983 after several years of substantial volatility were positive developments for the financial position of the corporate sector.

All of those statistics—and there are many more—reflect the confidence which people can have in our economy today. They reflect the advances which we have made in our recovery. We can be sure, Mr. Speaker, that the ordinary Canadian agrees with the statement made by the Minister of Finance in his Budget when he said, and I quote from page 1423 of *Hansard*: