

expecting the taxes of the average Canadian to increase by nearly \$9 billion. That means \$9 billion is being taken out of the pockets of average Canadians at a time when disposable incomes for the manufacturing sector have never been more in need. We have manufacturing plants operating at 20 to 30 per cent below capacity. They need Canadians to be purchasing homes, appliances and vehicles.

Disposable income in the country is decreasing, and one of the reasons it is decreasing is that the Government is taking more money out of the hands of average Canadians. Personal income tax is going up. Federal sales tax is going up. We still have that special charge on gasoline that should not be in place today. Over \$9 billion will be taken out of the pockets of average working Canadians over the next four years as a result of the Government trying to find ways to grab more money to offset the money being given to the corporate tax sector.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I think the most disgraceful performance we have seen in the House for many months was the recognition that the Government had set out a special initiatives fund, presumably an opportunity for all Members of Parliament to take to the bureaucracy suggestions for job creation in their own constituencies. They were looking for projects that were needed, such as bridges to be built, railroad crossings to be established and community infrastructures to be developed. The Government forgot one important aspect. It told only Liberal Members of Parliament about this particular fund. By the time Parliament even recognized that such a fund was in place, \$138 million out of \$150 million had already been spent in Liberal constituencies only. The fact that the Province of Quebec has received about 50 per cent of this money, although it only has 30 per cent of the country's unemployed, indicates very clearly the bias in favour of Liberal ridings. Members of Parliament were told last November that there was a fund and that we would be receiving guidelines on how to access this particular money for job creation. It was not until weeks and weeks later that Members of Parliament found out the terms of reference. By that time \$138 million out of the \$150 million had already been allocated to the Liberal caucus members.

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That is the kind of hypocrisy, the arrogant, cynical behaviour, that Canadians have come to accept as the norm for the Liberal Government of Canada. We cannot expect anything more than this sleazy, snake-in-the-grass kind of approach to economic development in this country. The Canadian people do not expect anything more. They know that in their dying days as their nails scrape down the walls of the House of Commons, as they slip out of this place, members of the Government are prepared to do anything.

It is an embarrassment to have a government in place that is prepared to be so uncaring about the recovery program. It knew full well when it introduced its monetary policy of high interest rates and high unemployment what the social cost would be. That was done consciously and it was clearly outlined where it had been applied in other countries. It knew

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the social costs, the human suffering and the pain that Canadians were going to experience. It was prepared to gamble.

What we see is a government that is prepared to salvage its electoral fortunes in the country, through the Special Initiatives Program, on the backs of the unemployed of the country, on the backs of the poor of the country, on the backs of the single parents of the country, on the backs of the war veterans in the country—one could go on and on. It is an uncaring government that is prepared to do anything to regain its electoral successes in selected ridings in the country.

We in the New Democratic Party want to make two points, Mr. Speaker. First, that the recovery program in place today is a recovery program that is unfair, that is biased, that discriminates against Canadians who can least afford it these days.

Second, the last indication we have seen in the House of how concerned the Liberal Government is with a fair recovery program was the Special Initiatives Program designed specifically and only for Liberal members.

Nearly half the people in this country, half the unemployed in this country, half the poor in the country, half of the young people, did not have an opportunity to take advantage of this job-creation initiative. That is an example of a government that has become arrogant in its approach, a government that has become uncaring in its approach. If that is the kind of government we have in place, then I suspect, when we see the Budget in a few hours from now, it will be a Budget, as the Minister of Finance indicated, of the *status quo*—more of the same. That means more unfairness, more suffering, and in turn that means years and years without prosperity for an increasing number of Canadians. It is a recovery of profits only, not a recovery for people.

We in the New Democratic Party hope and pray that the Minister of Finance will recognize that he has erred in his judgment, that the monetary position that he and the Governor of the Bank of Canada have continued with is not working. With a sense of fairness, fair play and compassion, we hope and pray that the Government of Canada and the Minister of Finance will introduce a Budget that will put people in Canada first as opposed to profits first.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member who spoke for the New Democratic Party will recall a nine-month period when there were a lot of commonsense principles in public policy. There was an acknowledgment that poor people were important and that most of the jobs in the country were available in the private sector. In fact, that nine-month period produced a net gain of close to 300,000 jobs in the economy. We have had a four-year period in which we have lost over half a million jobs because of a difference in philosophy.

Does the Hon. Member and his Party believe that it is critically important that employers be left with sufficient money to modernize, to conduct research and development, to develop new products? Are these not the really critical ingredients in preparing jobs for the future, or is the NDP suggesting that the more money that comes into government hands, the better it would do as managers in conducting that research and