

jurisdiction of the Canadian Government and who need those regulations as soon as possible to be better protected on the market place. Knowing the large number of occupational accidents in Canada, knowing the number of hours lost due to such accidents, I cannot understand why this Government does not want to immediately implement the regulations needed to better protect Canadian men and women in the work place.

Finally, I would like to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that a Government is very quickly judged according to what it does or does not do in the early stages of its mandate. As far as we are concerned, we very soon realized that this Government does not care for the people living in the most remotest parts of this country. People living in the most underprivileged areas have been the first hit by the cuts announced by the new Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). I need only look at the programs affected, like the dairy policy.

● (1630)

If there is one group of Canadians in need of Government assistance, it is our Canadian farmers, especially those who work hard under difficult conditions, rising very early in the morning to take care of their dairy farms. Yet, as a result of Government action there will be cutbacks in our dairy programs. I find this completely unacceptable.

Secondly, this government is going to cut funds appropriated to social housing. Is there any thing more unfortunate than the situation of our senior citizens or simple people, living on an inadequate income, who are unable to find decent housing in many regions of Canada? Yet, the first message given by the new Government to these people is that there will be cutbacks in its social housing programs, which means that the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation will not be able to build facilities for senior citizens or social housing units so essential in our Canadian economy to provide assistance to the poorest and most disadvantaged members of our society.

In addition, the Government is preparing to cancel our job mobility programs. Because it is difficult to find work nowadays, the previous Liberal Government had implemented a subsidy program whereby Canadians could move to other parts of the country where jobs are available. However, this program, under which assistance was provided to workers willing to move to other regions where jobs were available, has been cancelled by this Government. In my opinion, this goes directly against the interests of Canadian workers who are looking for jobs.

Finally, we have been told that job creation programs for young people and summer employment programs for students will be cancelled. This is another group in our society which needs Government assistance and which has been deceived and let down by this Progressive Conservative Government in the very first days of its administration.

I shall close by saying that it does not take long to judge a new Government, Mr. Speaker. The Canadian people certainly

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want the economic situation to improve. They certainly want this Government to do well. That is why I urge the Progressive Conservative Government to keep its promises and to bring prosperity to all Canadians and to make jobs available to those who need them. This should be the first priority of this Government. We are looking forward to it. The Official Opposition will always support Government initiatives aimed at creating employment. We shall work in close cooperation with this Government to promote economic recovery. However, in the face of uncertainty, when the Government seems to want to reexamine everything, to give priority to a reduction in the deficit rather than to job creation, we have to say that this Government does not keep its promises as it should. We shall have to ask the Progressive Conservative Government to do better in the future, otherwise the people will be bitterly disappointed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments. The Hon. Member for Châteauguay (Mr. Lopez).

Mr. Lopez: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet). I hope this time I am going to get answers, for I did not get any this morning when I directed a question to the Hon. Member for Saint-Léonard-Anjou (Mr. Gagliano).

I suppose that he simply could not answer. I suppose also that it would have been difficult for him to answer without placing himself in an embarrassing situation. Now that I am facing an Hon. Member with much more Parliamentary experience, I am quite sure he will be able to answer my questions.

Ms. Copps: Ask your question! You have wasted two minutes already!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please!

Mr. Lopez: He is blaming us for trying to reduce the deficit which the previous administration has created. My question is this: Does the Hon. Member believe that we should allow the deficit to increase even more! He claims that no ordinary citizen has ever asked him to reduce the deficit. Does he expect ordinary citizens to come to the House and say: Dear Hon. Members, enough is enough? The deficit Canada is faced with is already more than we can pay. Indeed, it takes 33 per cent of our GNP to pay the interest alone. Does he suggest we should allow the deficit to grow bigger still? Does he not feel that when Canadians voted for change on September 4, they were actually saying: Enough is enough! Let us get rid of a government which can do nothing but mortgage our future?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) has the floor.

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to answer the question of the Hon. Member for Châteauguay. Of course, I