

*Government Orders*

In terms of training programs which are very important for a changing country and work force like Canada, funding of an additional \$250 million will be committed over the next five years in support of those programs and an additional \$300 million will be provided in 1993 for job training for displaced workers.

In balance the statement yesterday was as good as we could expect given the times. As I mentioned earlier, when government revenues are down there are really only two things we can do. We can increase taxes or we can cut back on spending.

One of the things I think most of us in this House realize is that there is zero tolerance out there in terms of the ability of the government to tax more. People simply do not want more taxes. What they want is more efficiency from government. I think the minister has produced that in his economic statement.

If our economy continues to grow as we predict it will, and I am confident it will, we will have the revenues we need to carry on with our programs and reduce the debt. We are giving businesses, particularly small businesses, the encouragement they need to make the investments necessary to create the jobs we want to see.

I am confident that will happen. I am confident the government is on the right road. We have done it all without borrowing more money.

**Mr. Jerry Pickard (Essex—Kent):** Madam Speaker, I come from a small riding in southwestern Ontario, Essex—Kent. They are two counties in Canada that are highly productive agriculturally. As well they have a tremendous amount of manufacturing jobs, or may I say they had a tremendous amount of manufacturing jobs.

• (1600)

However in the last couple of years, just to give a quick example of what has happened to the manufacturing jobs and the agricultural jobs, in my riding Delta 70, a fairly large manufacturing plant closed; Olinda Foods closed; Freedlands closed; Sheller—Globe closed; Nabisco closed; Standard Tube closed; Campbell Foods is leaving;

Hunt—Wesson closed; Duomatic Olsen closed; and Meridian Mould closed. They were fairly large companies.

In my riding right now we are talking about 8,500 people being on unemployment. Jobs in my riding are very hard to come by. The Minister of Finance stands and says he can see improvements, lights on the horizon. He can see a positive move forward in the last year or so. I have to point out that in Kent county the cases of people on welfare have cost approximately \$7,000 in the year 1990. In 1991 they cost \$13.5 million and in 1992, almost \$17 million. Welfare has tripled in the Kent county area of my riding in the last three years. In the Essex part of my riding the welfare costs in 1990 were approximately \$9 million; in 1991, \$16 million; and today, 1992, \$21.5 million.

We are talking about changes therefore in welfare costs in both counties from \$15 million to right now about \$36 million. They have risen in the area of 140 per cent.

People are looking for jobs. They are looking for some answers. They are looking for some help. I failed to see one job, one effort on behalf of this government to help southwestern Ontario. I see programs put in place for the maritime provinces and Quebec. I see programs suggested in the west but not one penny moves toward southwestern Ontario.

I must also admit that the farm community in my area was looking for a bit of help. Well over one-third of the farming community is in financial trouble at this point. It has had very tough years with extremely low commodity prices. I really thought the Minister of Finance was very aware of that due to his former position. However, I have seen no movement in helping those who are really in need in my riding or helping Canadians in general.

I know dollars will be lost in my community through cuts in the UI program. I also know small business was looking for a glimmer of hope because of the huge loss of funds in my area. Nothing seemed to come about. The economic statement in my riding of Essex—Kent is very disastrous. I am afraid the bill put forward by the minister has done nothing to resolve the problems.

Business people, the farm community and labour forces have suggested the major cause of our tough economic times right now. Everyone believes the free trade agreement has had a tremendous impact on my region. Added to that, the recent imposition of taxes has certainly caused a tremendous difficulty. I believe the GST alone drove a very large portion of the people who