

*The Budget—Mr. MacDougall*

eye to eye on all matters with him, but I certainly have a great deal of respect for him and I believe his retirement is well earned.

I might also take this opportunity to wish the potential successors to his job the best of luck. I was pleased to see that both the CBC and the CTV networks were able to arrange to have an audience with the Liberal leadership frontrunner who is now in sunny Jamaica. I was also pleased to hear that he agrees with the Tory Party in claiming that unemployment is the most serious problem facing the nation. I can tell the House that I can think of approximately 1.5 million reasons why this Party has always considered unemployment to be the most pressing problem to date.

Twenty-one days ago, 1.5 million unemployed Canadians were anxiously awaiting the release of the Minister of Finance's 1984 Budget. A great many of these men and women were waiting to hear some good news about the action the Government was going to take to help find jobs for young people who had just graduated from high school, college or even university. These young people who are coming on to the job scene for the first time are obviously disadvantaged because they lack the experience that potential employers are looking for. In other words, they have been caught in the standard trap of not having enough experience for a job because they have never been given the opportunity to work and gain that experience.

After listening to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) 20 days ago, the 1.5 million unemployed in this nation have once again been disappointed by a Government that does not seem to care about the citizens who cannot find work. As a Member who represents northern Ontario, I can tell you and the House that thousands of unemployed in my riding and all ridings in northern Ontario and across the region are extremely disappointed with the Finance Minister's efforts at job creation. Members opposite who represent northern Ontario together with the rest of the Liberal caucus have proven once again that government priorities are not reflective of the needs of the people of the country.

In April 1983, the Finance Minister proudly boasted that his Budget was a recovery Budget. He did not mention the fact that Canadians were recovering from the Government's mismanagement of the Canadian economy. He boldly told the House the following:

I am proud to be associated with this Government that has not, despite intense fiscal pressures, forsaken its compassion or its obligation to support those Canadians who most need help. The Government has taken significant actions in the past ten months to contain the rise in unemployment.

He earlier stated:

Madam Speaker, my dominant concern in preparing this Budget has been to help the more than one and a half million Canadians who want to work but cannot find jobs.

Like the repeat performance of a bad film, we have seen what effect the Minister's recovery Budget has had on the Canadian economy.

Ten months ago, the Minister told us that 1.5 million Canadians could not find work. Today, after 10 months of

Liberal recovery, there are still 1.5 million people unemployed. Ten months of recovery—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member but the Chair is trying to find out whether the Hon. Member will get to his speech. He has been reading remarks from the outset. While the quoting of documents is allowed in the House, speeches should be made orally.

**Mr. MacDougall:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I certainly will be coming to the points in my speech. I must apologize to you, Mr. Speaker. I did get carried away.

Several weeks ago, I received a disturbing letter from a constituent of mine from the mining industry, an industry in northern Ontario in which problems are certainly not uncommon. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I should not quote from the letter, but I must say to you that there are 1.5 million people unemployed in Canada including people in northern Ontario. I must refer to some of these letters because they are very sincere and relate to the problems in northern Ontario and, of course, in my riding. The letter from my constituent indicated that her husband has been out of work for a year now. He has filled out applications, answered advertisements and checked the UIC boards across northern Ontario. His UIC runs out on February 13. What should he do? I was trying to refer to that type of question, Mr. Speaker. That is what I was referring to in regard to the Minister and his Budget. In his Budget, the Minister did not relate to the problems that existed 10 months ago. The Budget we are discussing today is the same Budget as before and there are still 1.5 million people unemployed.

I tried to find work for that constituent, but unfortunately I was not successful and was unable to find work for this person because I was here the night the Budget Speech was made looking for what I thought would be the answers that would help these people who are unemployed.

Perhaps what is even more frustrating to a new Member of Parliament like myself or to my constituents is the fact that when the Government does in fact produce funds for job creation, the money is not evenly distributed across the country. What we have seen happen in the House in the last few weeks is very, very upsetting to myself and to my colleagues on this side. It is upsetting to see public funds distributed unequally across this land. By using public funds to prop up the Government's sagging popularity, the Liberals have created two classes of unemployed citizens.

● (1740)

On November 29, 1983, I informed the House that Canada Works money was distributed unfairly. In the Liberal held riding on Nickel Belt, the average allocation for an unemployed person was \$168 per week, while in the riding of Timiskaming the average amount was \$97 per week. That is not fair, Mr. Speaker. The people being hurt are those who are unemployed, those who are looking for jobs, those who have lost their unemployment benefits and who have to live on social benefits. That is what I mean when I say that the