

is about 1.5 points less than it was when we took power in 1984. That was after the recession. This is in the middle of a recession. We are starting to come out of it. We are on the road to recovery and we are going to make it by the middle of the year. We will not make it with negative comments from the hon. member, but by positive hard work by Canadians.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Madam Speaker, the unemployment rate announced today is already higher than the unemployment rate forecast in the budget. The decline in interest rates the government has been talking about has stalled. Interest rates went up yesterday. The minister's answer is a slap in the face of the tens of thousands of Canadians looking for work in the towns and cities of this country; a slap in the face. In my own city of Windsor, there are now 17,000 people out of work, an unemployment rate of 13.6 per cent, an increase of close to 25 per cent over the past year.

I ask the Deputy Prime Minister this question. Why has this government no plans in the budget to create jobs except to cut \$100 million from job creation funds? Is this the way the government intends to help Canadian workers? No wonder their plans are nothing more than a cruel slap in the face for Canadians and their communities.

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member stands up here and talks about interest rates. They have dropped over 4 percentage points, over 400 basis points. Yesterday they went up one one-hundredth of a point. Interest rates did not move at all on mortgages, on consumer loans or anything else. So the hon. member is really a little misleading when he is giving that kind of figure in this House of Commons.

I might also point out that he is talking about Ontario. Ontario today has 485,000 more people working today than it did in 1984 when we took power from the Liberals, and more people are working in Ontario in more meaningful and full-time jobs. There are announcements in the papers every day of plant expansions, of growth in the economy—

An hon. member: Where, where?

Mr. McDermid: Where? I am glad the hon. member asked where; in Winnipeg, I.E. Aerospace Canada; in

Mississauga, General Electric; in Thunder Bay, Earnway Industries, Trans-Alta Resources Corporation in Malton; Abitibi-Price in Manitoba; Journal Printing of Sudbury. I could go on and on. Thanks for asking.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Madam Speaker, on this International Women's Day the Prime Minister has a responsibility to provide Canadian women with some answers, and some jobs. Figures released this morning show that the unemployment rate has jumped dramatically. It is an absolute disgrace.

Even more disgraceful is that we have seen the finance minister gloating with the big business community about his budget, the same budget that is forcing ever more women into part-time work or right out of the labour force altogether. This is happening because women have no choices.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister give Canadian women an economic break today? Will he enact the necessary training programs which he promised when his unemployment insurance cuts ensured the unemployment of Canadians?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, I find it astonishing how the member can misrepresent the reality of the situation for women in this country today. The reality is that unemployment rates for women are significantly less than for men. Not that one is that happy about it, but unemployment rates for women over-all are about 9.5 per cent. In fact, the rates for adult women are only about 8.8 per cent.

There are, in fact, 900,000 more women working in this country since this government took office. Sixty per cent of those jobs are in administration, professional and managerial areas. It is the financial policies of this government and the budget which will put us on the path to economic recovery. More and more women will be going into these increasingly important jobs and achieving economic equality for women in this country.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. The fact of the matter is that this government has forced more and more women into part-time work and forced more and more women right out of the labour force altogether. That is the reality.