

S. O. 31

When he became our Leader he promised us an open and accessible Party. He chose inclusion over exclusion. I rise in this House to pay tribute and to thank the man who introduced me to the Parliament of Canada.

Today the Liberal Party meets at a crossroads, not a point of arrival but a point of departure. As we prepare to pave the way for the future of our Party and our nation, Mr. Turner, we will continue to carry the torch and to fight with the same intensity, tenacity, vigour and perseverance that you as our Leader fought for our beliefs for a just and progressive Canada.

I thank you, Sir, for all your advice and I thank you for being my Leader.

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UNEMPLOYMENT

ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF CANADA—ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, we have entered a new age in how we deal with unemployment in this country. In 1963, the Economic Council of Canada was created to help promote policies that led to full employment. We now have the Economic Council advising the Government on policies that are producing unemployment rates of 7.5 per cent nationally, and reaching 15 per cent in some parts of the country.

How does the head of the Economic Council reconcile the fact that the objective of full employment of 3 or 4 per cent is just a dream for this Government? That is simple. All she does is redefine full employment to 7.5 per cent. When unemployment rises, "Don't worry, be happy. We will just raise what we consider as the level of full employment." Full employment is now 7.5 per cent. When it reaches past 8 per cent, as projected in the Budget, then the level of full employment will be bumped up to 8 per cent. Meanwhile, with the proposed changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act, workers will be trampolined from one part of the country to another.

We have many parts of the country that are still trying to recover from the last recession. Now we have interest rates approaching the teens and the Government is proposing to slash the unemployment insurance program. We have a Government that has abdicated its responsibilities and commitments to working people.

An Hon. Member: Time.

Mr. Rodriguez: It tells them that inequality is fairness, that inaction is leadership and that unemployment is full—

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, the Hon. Member's time has expired.

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HEALTH

BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS TO HAEMOPHILIAC VICTIMS—HI INFECTION

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Mr. Speaker, there are 2,300 haemophiliac victims in Canada. Of these, 950 are now testing HIV positive for AIDS due to contaminated blood supplies used prior to November of 1985. As a result, these people are now innocent victims of two dreadful conditions.

Of the 950 HIV positive persons, 84 per cent are under the age of 40, 50 have died, and 50 will develop AIDS each year. We are asking the Government to not group them with the thalidomide and measles victims, but to consider them a separate group because of the lethal nature of their disease and move quickly on their requests for: Reimbursement for loss of earnings and costs of medical care; providing families with financial security upon the death of an infected person; and providing cash payment for relief of pain and suffering.

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[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION

STATEMENT BY FORMER LIBERAL MINISTER

Mrs. Gabrielle Bertrand (Brome—Missisquoi): In Montreal a few days ago, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Marc Lalonde, a member of the old guard of the Liberal Party, stated and I quote: "Those who support the Meech Lake Accord should stop moaning and repeating that the failure of this agreement would not be a disaster for this country."

Moreover, with reference to the citizens of Hong Kong who are leaving to settle in Canada, he remarked to a *Montreal Gazette* reporter that they are not going to leave a city facing great political unrest to settle in another city facing even greater political unrest.

That a former Trudeau Minister should attack the Meech Lake Accord is not at all surprising, but I cannot help protesting with indignation when this man, a Montrealer at that, dares to declare that his city is faced with unrest.