

*Oral Questions*

The hon. member knows we have been going through a very difficult process of coming out of a recession and a difficult process of restructuring, but I can assure my hon. friend that our policies are the right ones.

As a matter of fact if the hon. member would cast his attention to an article in *The Financial Post* of a couple of weeks ago, the headlines said: "Clintonomics borrows heavily from Mazankowski". That is a pretty clear indication. The hon. member just a few weeks ago was advocating that the Clinton proposals were the right things. Well, here we are. Just like Panasonic, this government is slightly ahead of its time.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. He boasts about the Tory record, but I see that he is just another Conservative minister who does not want to carry the can for that record as a Conservative leadership candidate.

The Minister of Finance says that he is building on the policies of the Conservative government which have brought us nothing more than 1.5 million people unemployed.

I want to ask the minister: In his budget is he going to do something to finally bring these unemployed Canadians some real hope and confidence for the future, or is it going to be just another one of those Conservative budgets that did nothing more than create 1.5 million people out of work?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, when is the hon. member across the way going to talk about some good news that is happening in his own backyard: a \$500 million expansion for the Windsor plant? If we were to listen to Bob White he would have suggested that plant would have been built in Mexico.

*The Toronto Star* this morning says: "Autos help swell Ontario job ranks. The real growth is in automotive products. The big winner is machinery and equipment". That is positive news.

I have more positive news: Employment increased for the sixth consecutive month in Ontario by 6,000, resulting in an accumulative gain of 91,000 since August.

There is some good news occurring. Why does the hon. member not get on the band wagon and join with some optimism?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, the expansion which we welcome came about because the previous Liberal government stepped in—

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Harvard:** Way to go, Herb.

• (1425 )

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, the previous Liberal government stepped in to support that plant with loan guarantees which the Conservatives opposed. That is the history. That is the record. That is the truth, and the Minister of Finance is shaking his head in agreement.

I want to ask the Minister of Finance whether he will tell us that in his budget, which he now says he is going to bring down after Easter, he will announce the cancellation of the \$8 billion helicopter program which Canadians do not want and instead bring forward a national infrastructure program that will create jobs in towns and cities right across this country. Will he make that commitment today?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** No, Mr. Speaker, I was not nodding my head in agreement. I was nodding my head in amazement. Amazing Gray is suggesting I follow the Liberal policies that gave us 22 per cent interest rates, 13 per cent inflation and 12 per cent unemployment. He wants us to go out and borrow or tax some Canadians to generate a \$15 billion slush fund.

Where would he suggest that I get the money from? Whom would he suggest that I tax, or whom would he suggest we borrow it from?

**Mr. Peterson:** You gave us the great recession of the 1930s.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** As I have said in this House so often there is only one taxpayer, not a federal taxpayer, not a provincial taxpayer, not a municipal taxpayer, but one Canadian taxpayer. It will all come out of the Canadian taxpayers' pockets.