

*The Budget*

I guess it would be up to the member to tell us or suggest what the level of the Canadian dollar should be. We cannot rely on a weak Canadian dollar to pull the Canadian economy around. The Canadian economy is on sound footing. The fundamentals are there. They are correct. That, in a sense, is what is giving us that strong Canadian dollar. I think it is a strong compliment to the Minister of Finance and the government of the day.

**Mr. Brewin:** Mr. Speaker, the Canadian dollar in 1986 was around 72 cents and went up to 89 cents to the U.S. dollar in 1991. It has dropped a little bit as the member noted.

The fact remains in my community of Victoria which depends on tourism, on the forest industry, on exports and so forth, that the policy John Crow and this government has followed is a disaster. It is a disaster, and the proof is in the pudding. Right across this country communities are devastated by the economic policies of this government.

The member mentioned town hall meetings. During the break, I had an opportunity to meet with hundreds of people in Victoria and with many, many groups there. I began a process of discussing with them the development of federal economic policies that might enhance the economic long-term future of our community.

I would like to take the opportunity to put on the record some of the ideas that have developed.

The shipbuilding industry is one I have already mentioned. It does provide high quality jobs, but it needs government support. This government is one of the few in the western world that does not provide effective support for shipbuilding. It has allowed that support to vanish. We had the *Polar 8* cancelled on us despite the firm commitment of the government. That was unfortunate.

We want to see fair funding for the Commonwealth Games instead of having the government renege on the commitments that it has made.

We want to see a new harbour management system in Victoria so that that great asset of Victoria can be used effectively for our future.

We need new customs facilities. The government has consistently ignored that. It is important that we get

those in shape particularly in time for the Commonwealth Games.

We need sewage treatment as I mentioned earlier. It is very important for our environment and for our international image.

We need the government to restore its role in the funding of education and health programs, major employers in Victoria. They are making a major contribution to our community and our country: the University of Victoria, Camosun College, and the hospital, which is one of the best in the country.

Finally, cultural and social programs are very important in our community. We do not get our share and it is time we did.

**Mr. Jim Karygiannis (Scarborough—Agincourt):** Mr. Speaker, we all have seen what happened in Ontario when the New Democratic Party came into power. It ballooned our deficit by about \$14 billion.

I would like to ask a question of the member. Since 1984 when this government came into power, we had 33 tax increases, including the GST which devastated our country. We had free trade with the United States which created 350,000 job losses. The jobs were just sucked away in the United States.

Now this government is talking about free trade with Mexico which is going to devastate our country once again. The Americans are against it; Bush is trying to avoid it because of elections.

My concern is that although the NDP in this House is voicing a concern, its provincial governments are not standing up. The premier of B.C. and the premier of my province of Ontario, who we know is doing a disastrous job, are not standing up to the federal government and saying: "Look, enough is enough. Thirty-three tax increases. So many people unemployed, so many jobs lost. This budget is clearly not looking after the 1.5 million Canadians who are unemployed".

It is forecasting 10 per cent unemployment over the next two years. In the city of Toronto, in greater metropolitan Toronto, we need new infrastructure programs. It has been killing our city and this government has been totally ignoring it.