

Government Orders

have the money are not spending it because of the lack of confidence created by this government in this country. The ones who do not have the money cannot spend something they do not have.

It was very rewarding for me to talk to people from all walks of life, going into the garages and seeing how hard the mechanic was working over his motor, going into the back of the restaurants to see how hard the people were working just to make ends meet. Some people would apologize because their hands were soiled and they did not want to shake hands with their MP. I said they never had to apologize for dirty hands. It is those kinds of hands that built this country to what it is today.

I offer the government what I heard on the streets during the winter break, and I am sure it is what the Conservative members heard also. As I said earlier, they have stopped listening.

From there my assistant and I then dropped in to one of our larger Canada employment offices right on Bloor Street. Another frightening picture was to see the Canada employment office packed with people just before Christmas. They were lining up for various things, unemployment insurance, lining up because someone lost a social insurance number and was making application, lining up because of Canada Employment and Immigration disputes or conflicts.

Again, it was revealing to talk to these people while they were standing in line. They had a certain amount of satisfaction and security because they were lining up to apply for their unemployment insurance. Many of them spoke to me with almost fear on their faces because they were afraid of what would happen to them when their UI revenues would run out: "Mr. Flis, what am I going to do when I exhaust my UI? I want to work. I have tried 200 firms. No one will take me." That is when the fear starts coming in. What will happen when that safety network of UI and then social assistance runs out? This is where panic sets in, this is where psychological depression sets in.

My constituency office, like many members' offices, has become an employment agency. People who have been working 10 years, people who have had businesses

and are now unemployed are coming to their member of Parliament and asking: "Mr. Flis, can you help me get something? I will take any work, but I will not go on welfare".

Many Canadians are so proud that they will not go on welfare. They want to help themselves. They want to work. Again, this government is not allowing this.

Following this kind of talking and listening to the people in Parkdale—High Park, I brought all of their concerns to the three-day caucus meeting the national Liberal caucus had in Ottawa prior to the opening of the House of Commons on February 3.

Each member shared what he or she heard from people in their ridings. Based on what we heard, the Liberal Party came up with a five-point economic recovery plan. I will not waste the time of the House to repeat it because it has been repeated over, over and over here.

We are pleased that the government already implemented one of our recommendations, the 5 per cent down payment, et cetera. We are just waiting and hoping that it will implement the other four, especially the infrastructure one. If it does not, the doom and gloom will lead to violence and civil disobedience.

I just want to share with this House that the people in Parkdale—High Park have called in the Guardian Angels, some from the United States, to come and help them supervise the streets. They feel that the streets are not safe any more.

I disagree with them. I object. I go on public record. I object to any Guardian Angels coming in and telling us how to supervise our streets. In metropolitan Toronto we have the best police force in Canada. People feel secure with its supervision, its policing. We do not need any Guardian Angels from any U.S. city.

We have nothing to learn from United States cities. Our cities are still relatively safe and pleasant places to live. I hope the government will listen to our five-point economic recovery plan.

Mr. George S. Baker (Gander—Grand Falls): Madam Speaker, I want to just put a few words on the record as they relate to this bill.