

Oral Questions

We have in place in the city of Winnipeg, just like in every other city in Canada, a whole range of programs for Canadian youth, for the unemployed and for social assistance recipients.

I have just completed with all provinces the signing of a social assistance recipients agreement. We are working co-operatively with the provinces in trying to complement each other's programs in order to be more effective for those poor people.

The Liberals like to print money the old way and then they want us to tax people more or even increase the deficit. Canadians have made it clear that they have had enough taxes. They have had enough of this deficit that is killing the future of our kids.

Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Mississauga East): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

This government has made a practice of blaming unskilled workers for high unemployment when the real culprit is their own anti-inflation experiment that has starved the country of jobs.

The workers sacrificed by this government face the perils of family violence, higher rates of infant mortality and family breakdown, while traditional unemployment support is being denied.

Did the minister calculate the human toll on Canada's unemployed and their families when he chose to pay for a 2 per cent drop in inflation with their livelihoods?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, the hon. member refers to the plight of Canadians who are affected by job losses and unemployment resulting from a recession that is not confined to Canada, and a restructuring that our economy has to go through. That is not unique to Canada but it is imperative for the country if we are going to remain competitive in these markets. That allows us as Canadians from coast to coast to coast to earn the money in order to have the standard of living we do in this country.

She says we blame unskilled Canadians. We do not blame unskilled Canadians. But maybe unskilled Canadians could blame that member and her party for having in this House and in the other place stalled the reform of this UI program to take this money and activate it in order to train Canadians.

From \$500 million a year two years ago to train unemployed Canadians, this year we will be spending \$1.8 billion and unemployed Canadians will benefit from the policy of this government.

Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Mississauga East): Madam Speaker, Canadians know that Tory times are hard times.

We have witnessed a Tory chain of despair that has forced workers off assembly lines, through the unemployment lines and straight on to welfare.

I ask the minister who prides himself on competitiveness to tell us how Canada can compete when the talents of nearly one-fifth of Canadian workers have been wasted in this Tory fiscal furnace.

• (1140)

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I know I have to be polite and respect the rules of this House and I will.

I will tell the hon. member this. I think Canadians see it. The people over there, *les socialistes en cravates*, want us to print money to get out of our problems, and the Liberals want us to spend our way out of our problems. However Canadians are telling the government that we have to be more efficient with their dollars, with the taxpayers' hard earned money. We are doing this, Madam Speaker.

I know the hon. member cares about poor people. She asks what the Minister of Finance did for the working poor. In the last budget this government started something that will revolutionize social security programs in Canada by targeting hard earned money to the working poor, to those people who need government assistance in order to meet their obligations.

Of course, no Liberals could see through this, it is much too complicated.

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TRADE

Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca): Madam Speaker, when it comes to printing money they will print it for Olympia & York.

My question is for the Minister for International Trade. I want to ask the minister what mechanism he has in his office to monitor legislation in the United States that is being passed by the House or by the Senate that is