

Government Orders

Last year when the New Democrats and the premier of Ontario put out this anti-recession fund, the federal government would not get on side. I am sure that the Liberal opposition at that time did not say "Premier Bob, that's not the right idea". It probably criticized him. At that time when they were spending money you were criticizing and now when they are coming back you are saying they cannot do that either. Well you cannot have it both ways. It begged co-operation last year when the New Democratic government said that it was going to spend its way out, and the federal government said no way. The Liberal opposition in Ontario said, "No way. You can't do that".

I think that Premier Rae has reached out to the business community and many times, for whatever reason, has had his hand slapped. Absolutely. I do not think they want to co-operate. But he will continue to reach out to them. In the end, without cynicism from the other parties, this will work. I do not think that Bill C-32 has anything to do with what the member was talking about and I commend the speaker for bringing that to the attention of everyone.

Mr. Mills: Mr. Speaker, the member first of all accused me of being cynical when I gave him a specific example that would create 17,000 jobs. He then went on to say that he did not see what Bill C-32 had to do with job creation. I cannot believe a member of Parliament would say that. If we had full employment in this country we would not have such a draw on the unemployment insurance fund and we would not have such a draw on the welfare fund. My goodness, his leader's first question in the House of Commons yesterday was: "What about the \$30 billion on UI and welfare? Let's put it into productive labour and then we would not have to worry about Bill C-32." He is not even listening to his own leader.

• (1100)

I put forward a specific, sincere question to the member of the New Democratic Party. I asked him for help to get people back to work. It was not cynical. I gave him a specific example and he stood up and made a mockery of my question. That is why people think this House does not work and they are right.

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James): Mr. Speaker, the previous discussion is very revealing. I think all of

us on this side of the House are trying to do our best to turn this country around and to get this country back on track, but let us keep our eyes on the ball and let us not forget who is tearing this country apart. It is the Conservatives across the way and let us not forget that.

Let us turn to the matter at hand. The other day I was reading a story in *Time* magazine. It was a cover story titled: "The Fraying of America". It spoke of the unravelling of that country. The United States of America is literally coming apart at the seams. It is coming apart at the seams because it has had far too many years of conservative administration.

I think many of us even on this side of the House would argue that perhaps in a period of 100 years there may be a time for a conservative administration. But history will tell you that having any more than about four or five years of a conservative administration in a longer period of time is far too much.

If you look at the United States it goes back to the Reagan years starting in January 1981, and that country has come apart. It has come apart to the extent that George Bush, who was riding high in the polls and nearing a 90 per cent approval rating a year ago has now slipped below the 45 per cent level. Who would have thought a year ago that George Bush could be facing defeat? It is now a possibility. I do not predict it, but it is a possibility.

That magazine cover story was addressing the very serious issue of the fraying of America, the coming apart of America. The same thing is happening here. Reaganomics did not work in the United States and Thatcher economics did not work in the United Kingdom. I am going to say that Mulroney economics does not work in this country.

Canadians know very well—they say it every day in the coffee shops, it is reflected in the polls, and even the Tories cannot deny it and they certainly cannot ignore it—that there is something terribly wrong with this country. They are searching for answers. They know that the Conservative government, going back to September 1984, has done something irrevocable to this country, or perhaps irrevocable. We are hoping if we get to power that we can turn it around, but the damage inflicted on this country by this government continues unabated day after day, day after day.