

Under these new rules she would not be entitled to anything at all.

Are we saying that people cannot phone in sick for a day?

I want to talk about three cases from my constituency that demonstrate this point very powerfully. One case concerns a woman who works for a home care institution. Often as she works for her various clients providing home care she does some extras for them. One of her clients, somebody who had known her and her husband as friends before she became employed for this home care company, asked her if she and her husband could move some furniture in the house. Her husband came in and moved some furniture. The home care company that this woman works for has a policy that no "strangers" are to come into the houses of any of the clients that the woman works for.

• (1320)

When they discovered that this woman's husband had come in to move this furniture, this woman was fired. She went to UI, explaining the circumstances, and she is seeking redress with the Ontario Labour Relations Board for unfair dismissal. During this period she has been disqualified again for a period of time from receiving unemployment insurance. Under this new system she would receive nothing.

I had somebody in to talk with me just this past Saturday who was involved in a dispute with her employer who has fired her because he believes that she took money unfairly from his business. She rejects this categorically. They are in a court case to settle the issue. The court case will take at least a year to come to its conclusion. Under the new rules she will have no support. As a single parent of three children, she will have no support whatsoever from unemployment insurance despite her years of paying into it.

All of these cases, and I have many more that I could include, demonstrate how viciously unjust, how psychologically sick this decision is that the government has taken in its economic statement.

I do not know if it will do any good to change this government's mind but we at least will keep fighting. We will keep bringing these facts before Parliament, before the people of this country.

Government Orders

Therefore, I wish to move:

That the motion be amended by adding the following words:

specifically the government's planned changes to the Unemployment Insurance Program which will further victimize the unemployed.

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): My question to the member relates to that portion of the minister's paper, the one investing in growth, and it has to do with the section relating to keeping inflation low. The government goes on to describe the importance of keeping inflation low, and I do not think that any one of us in this House would argue that controlling inflation is a vital ingredient in terms of putting some of the basics in place.

My question to the member, because the member is an economist, has to do with the actual program that we use in the Government of Canada for measuring inflation.

I have been saying, and many other members have been saying, for the last year and a half that there is not any inflation in this country. Things are so depressed; prices are suppressed, even wages have been suppressed. I know that the government, because it is so preoccupied with these inflation numbers, seems to be less sensitive to the million and a half people who are actually carrying the burden of its preoccupation with the inflation numbers.

Does the member think it is possible that the modelling that the government is using to calculate these inflation numbers could be in error and the actual inflation is a lot lower than we actually have shown? Maybe if we took a review of that system we might get this government to let up a little bit and put a little bit of steam back into the economy.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for an interesting question.

Inflation levels in Canada are calculated by Statistics Canada using a system of average expenditure patterns which a particular household would undertake in a given month.

They are not based on modelling techniques as are some of the projections in the government's material. Those modelling projections are often subject to considerable error, but the actual inflation figures are rarely subject to those errors. They are, however, somewhat misleading for any individual household because what they give is a figure for an average household.