

The Budget—Mr. MacLaren

We are in a terrible work crisis in Canada. We have a budget which literally does nothing. It certainly does not keep the wolf from the door. It is a Conservative budget.

Mr. Cooper: Shame.

Mr. Waddell: I should tell the Hon. Member before he leaves that it is a Conservative budget because it is a stand-pat budget. It does not really do anything. It basically favours big business and that is it. Forget small business, the consumer, youth, women, the poor and students. Forget them. It helps only a certain group in society.

My friends to my right say that it is not a Conservative budget. A few minutes ago the Premier of Ontario, Bill Davis, said how much he thought this was a good budget. He liked it. He is a Liberal, I am told by one of my colleagues. We do not know that, but we do know that 1983 opened with a plea from the Catholic Bishops that the Government give priority to the real victims of the recession, the unemployed, the welfare poor, the working poor and so on. The Bishops called for primary emphasis to be given to fighting unemployment, which then stood at 1.5 million. Instead, this budget we have today predicts—this is not socialist rhetoric or made-up figures, the figures are from the budget papers themselves—an unemployment rate of 1,495,000 Canadians unemployed this year with no real hope of finding a job and no alternative income except welfare. That is what this budget is about, Mr. Speaker.

I want to deal with some myths of this budget. One of them is that this is a recovery budget. We have heard the Government side say this is a recovery budget. Some recovery budget! The budget says—not my rhetoric or what we say, but the budget itself—that fewer people will be working than in 1982. In other words, fewer people will be working in 1983 than were working in 1982. There will be .6 per cent decline. The budget also says that 12.4 per cent will be unemployed. Then there will be a slight decline after that to 11.4 per cent.

Now, what disturbs me about this is not only the high level of unemployment—some recovery when you are going to have 12 per cent unemployment—but we are beginning to accept, if you notice, a high level of unemployment as a permanent level, something we are going to live with. Well, we cannot live with that. Not only will it kill our young people, it will literally create a generation of zombies out there. Not only that, it will bankrupt the Treasury, the UIC and our welfare system. The UI program cannot live with that, it was not created for that. The Provinces will go bankrupt because of welfare. We cannot live with this high level of unemployment and we should not accept it.

What does the budget say? We are on the way to recovery. I just did a tour of southwestern Ontario; Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Welland, Thorold, Hamilton, Windsor and so on. I have looked for this recovery. I went back to my riding at Easter, my colleagues went to their ridings. Have you seen this recovery, Mr. Speaker? Can you find it? I have looked for it everywhere, and I am looking under chairs now for this recovery. Where is it? It is supposed to be around the corner,

say the Liberals. There is a recovery for a few bankers and a few people who play the stock market. Old so-called economists like the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans) find a recovery, but let me tell the Member who is yelling at me that for the average person in this country there is no recovery now.

Mr. Evans: Nonsense.

Mr. Waddell: The major premise of this budget is that we will just wait and see and we will go on with the American recovery. That is what the budget papers say; we are going to wait for Ronald Reagan. We have not seen any recovery yet.

The budget's second myth is that we are going to have job creation. If you look at it, the budget gives \$4.8 billion for job creation, but that is over four years. The Minister neglected to emphasize that in his speech. It will be over four years. New job creation money for next year will amount only to \$440 million. We are paying out something over \$12 billion a year in Unemployment Insurance and we have no real job creation measures in this budget.

There is a third myth in this budget. In fact, the Minister has very little room to manoeuvre because he has this large deficit to deal with. Well, Mr. Speaker, if we could put people back to work through federal and provincial programs, we could generate more revenue and get people off Unemployment Insurance and welfare. That would cause the deficit to go down. There is no danger of interest rates going up because there is lots of money out there. Businesses are not borrowing money to expand. That is the fact of the matter. It has been said by the Governor of the Bank of Canada and by Dominion Securities in Toronto that businesses are not going out to borrow. So I am saying there is nothing to stop the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) from bringing in a massive stimulative budget, and he could have done that had he accepted that unemployment was the major problem in the country.

There is a fourth myth, which I want to deal with after one o'clock, about how ordinary people are not going to pay as much in taxes. In fact they are going to pay a lot more in taxes, but I will deal with that after lunch.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
RESIGNATION OF MR. MARK ROSE

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a communication notifying me that a