

liberate the individual to participate in the work and rewards in our rich society.

Because of poor job prospects in most other parts of Canada, many unskilled people moved to Alberta in recent years in the hope of finding a job, only to discover that an adjustment to the boom in Alberta was already under way and that fewer jobs were available. The federal Government's announcement that measures are needed to improve and expand skills training and re-training and the Government's intention to introduce an innovative employment strategy is an indication that every effort is being made by the Prime Minister and his Government to co-operate with the provinces, labour and business in determining appropriate policies.

In immediately attempting to reduce the huge federal deficit, this administration has realized that the cost of servicing the deficit limits the Government's ability to meet priority economic and social needs. The deficit hides the real cost of Government and does not allow for society to respond. The deficit inhibits private-sector growth and constrains the Government's ability to encourage growth. With a balanced budget, people would have to pay directly for services and programs initiated by the Government rather than paying indirectly for these services.

We have created an environment in which people expect governments to solve all of their problems but are actually shielded from the fact that, ultimately, the price tags for all those solutions must be paid for by the taxpayer. Deficits insulate that reality, and therefore governments become unresponsive to the true demands of their citizens.

By eliminating this smoke and mirrors distortion of reality, the Government can be held accountable for the success or failure to provide the level of services desired by the citizens with the resources allocated to it by those same citizens. The people are then in a position, through their exercise of the franchise, to decide what the role of Government will be, how large a role it should play and, most important, to what degree our society shall respond to the needs of those less fortunate. That is an important point. I have every confidence that Canadians will respond in a generous and caring way when others, either within or outside our country, are in need. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I have more confidence in average Canadians responding than I have in some bureaucrat or official making a decision on what an appropriate response might be on behalf of the Government and the people of Canada.

The willingness of Canadians to respond to those less fortunate has been demonstrated by the response we have seen to the tragedy in Ethiopia. I commend my colleague, the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark), for his approach to this world tragedy and for the way that he has provided a vehicle for Canadians to get involved and to respond.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Dorin: In Edmonton West, groups have been collecting funds to provide necessary food and equipment for Ethiopians

in the hopes of alleviating human misery. It is obvious that this Government and the Canadian people care.

The Government has also announced that Members of the House of Commons will be asked to approve the appointment of a parliamentary task force on reform of the House. This is indeed an important announcement. As a new Member of Parliament, I believe that if the House were freer to represent the regional and local realities of the country, more effective federal programs and policies would result.

Parliament does not at present appear to be in full control of government, and parliamentary committees are not as effective as they could be. Individual Members of Parliament must be given sufficient and adequate resources to do the job properly. We must be provided the tools to do the job and then be expected to deliver results.

Assigning genuine problems to standing or special committees would give Ministers the views of Members of Parliament from across the country. It would also give Members of Parliament the direct opportunity of contributing to the development of policies. We must be given the power to call before committees experts from all areas of the country and all sectors of the economy. We must be allowed more free votes on issues that are not matters of confidence in the Government, and we must be given more individual power. The enhancement of the role of the private Member is the key issue and would allow our system to reflect the reality of the country and lead us to a more effective system.

The Government's planned restructuring of the Foreign Investment Review Agency will undoubtedly benefit small business directly and encourage foreign investment. In my view, this is a positive step for the Province of Alberta. The prosperity of Canada and Alberta will depend on new job creation. Under the Hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald), a new formula has been used to allocate funds for Canada Works programs to every riding across Canada on a more equitable basis.

While I have some concerns about the long-range effectiveness of such programs, it is important to note that areas of tragically high unemployment like Edmonton, which now has an unemployment rate of 13 per cent or more, are now receiving their fair share of federal employment funds to help temporarily alleviate a very serious situation. My constituency allotment for Canada Works has been increased from a mere \$122,000 to a more realistic \$777,000. This indicates a concern on behalf of the new Progressive Conservative Government for the equitable distribution of funds across the country in order to stimulate employment.

• (1550)

It is Edmonton's eightieth birthday this week. It became a city on November 7, 1904. It is also the one hundred and eighty-ninth anniversary of the building of the first fort by the North West Company. The tremendous growth of Edmonton is a result of immigration from other parts of Canada and many areas of the world. People came to Edmonton because