

The Budget

Third, we must support the leading edge industries in Canada so that they can be competitive internationally.

Fourth, we must not give up on the manufacturing sector. Leo Girard of the steelworkers made that point very succinctly in the town hall meeting and I think it is an excellent one. We still have a future in manufacturing if our government is prepared to back it, a future in shipbuilding, a future in the forest industry, particularly through secondary manufacturing instead of shipping jobs offshore.

Fifth, we must begin to build and rebuild the safety net for those who are caught in the dislocation that is happening in our economy. We are undergoing a transition. Some of that is global. Some of it is brought about by the government's policies. In either case communities, individuals and families need the support of all of us as Canadians, as a Canadian family when they are undergoing the dislocations. If it means we, as members of Parliament, have to cut back on our salaries and expenses, we should be prepared to do so. It also must mean that those who are rich and wealthy in our society must be required to cut back on their privileges: presidents who are making over \$1 million a year with double that in privileges, stock options and all the rest.

Sixth, we need an effective capital works program as proposed by the governments of B.C. and Ontario. It is a tragedy that this government has let that opportunity go by. In my community of Victoria, for example, we need a sewage treatment system. The federal government must contribute to that to make it a reality. We need fair working conditions. We need a new trade deal. We need a progressive tax system. We need an efficient Public Service, not beating up on the public servants in this country, but drawing the public servants into an effective management and an effective delivery of service to the people. An effective Public Service and an efficient Public Service is essential to the development of our economy and to our society.

• (1320)

Auditors, for example, for every dollar spent on auditors we can raise \$17 billion from corporate tax evasion or avoidance.

Finally, we must put money into Official Development Assistance and in the environment. This government has cut \$75 million out of the green plan and has eliminated the Canadian Environmental Advisory Committee. Offi-

cial Development Assistance, improving the lot of people overseas, particularly in the Third World, is an important long-run investment in the Canadian economy. Not only will it develop support for Canada overseas, but by increasing the standard of living elsewhere then we will improve our own.

This is a budget which does not do the job. There are alternatives and the time has come for Canada to move in a new direction.

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, in relation to what the member had to say, I would like to congratulate him in one sense. He does recognize that the debt position of the government, our deficit position in relation to Gross Domestic Product, has improved remarkably in the last number of years. He mentioned the figure now being at 4 per cent deficit in relation to Gross Domestic Product and just four or five years ago those figures were in the order of 8 per cent. I congratulate him for recognizing that.

In relation to what he has just mentioned in regard to town hall meetings and what he would like to see happen to the Canadian economy, I would tell the member that 90 per cent of what is on his list we are already doing or have already achieved. What he has to do is pick out those specifics that we have not addressed. If you go through that list, I think you will agree that we are working on about 90 per cent of that.

I wanted to mention the Canadian dollar because the member mentioned the value of the Canadian dollar, I guess suggesting that we would be better off with a lower Canadian dollar and suggesting that the Canadian dollar is artificially high. I want to refer the member to a study done by Swiss Bank Incorporated.

In that study, they measured the value of the Canadian dollar, what they call the PPP, the price purchasing parity of the Canadian dollar in relation to other currencies. Specifically in relation to the American currency, their conclusion is that the Canadian dollar is not over-valued. If you want to get down to the very fine-tuning of the Canadian dollar, they say there might be a difference of a cent or less, based on what the Canadian dollar was in the late fall of 1991 which then was in the 88 to 89 cent range. The dollar having dropped four cents or more, I think we can all argue quite conclusively that the dollar is where it should be.