

Government Orders

public servants and processing them or tacking another \$3 billion to the deficit?

Frankly I think this government is doing a lousy job of handling the deficit. We should actually do a study on all that as it has ended up costing the taxpayer more because of the cutting and the constriction.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Harvey (Chicoutimi): Mr. Speaker, the Liberals always react like spoiled children; they do not appreciate what they have and they think that the government can afford anything. A government cannot spend money it does not have. Don't forget that they increased spending by 15 per cent per year in the last 10 years of their mandate, and that the budget would be \$300 billion this year, instead of \$155 billion, if we had had the same increases. What he is saying is ridiculous. Restrictions exist in the private sector and must also exist in the public sector. That is why our government's performance for the last seven years is recognized by all international organizations.

Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk to Bill C-26. I wish first to make a few comments on the speech of the previous speaker, the hon. member for Chicoutimi.

We must all bear some responsibility for the problems around us. Very often, I resent the grandiose statements made in this place, especially when they come from Conservatives members opposite, who tend to forget that they have been in power for seven years now. I think it is high time that they stop hiding behind what was done by the Liberals up to 1984. It is clear that there are things we could have done better, but it is also clear that since 1984, there is a number of things that they could have done with a little more compassion, a little more caring for the Canadian people.

[*English*]

I always want to respond when I sit in this House and I hear things. The last speaker spoke in terms of this not being a government of the *status quo*. Believe me, truer words were never spoken.

I can recall hearing the Prime Minister, shortly after he was elected, saying: "Just stick around and within 20 years you will not recognize this country". He was right.

It did not take that long. It has only been seven years and we are having a heck of a time recognizing it.

Someone else made a reference that public servants do not feel as bad about their jobs as the public servants in Russia feel about their jobs. My goodness, where are they? Who have they been talking to? What is this kind of nonsense we are hearing, this constant, constant nonsense?

Please open your ears. Talk to people out there.

Today I talked to a public servant and I asked him how he felt about this Public Service 2000. He was just an ordinary guy, just one of the little guys who works in one of the departments. He is not a manager, not a deputy minister, nothing like that. He is just an ordinary little guy working in one little department somewhere.

He said: "What frightens us the most is this feeling that there are going to be no consequences. Who is going to bear the consequences? The way they are talking about it, the manager will have all the power. What happens to us little guys? Who thinks about us?" They are also asking: "Are we going to bear the consequences if the manager of the department is not doing his job properly? Is it going to be the little guy who is going to lose his job? Is the manager going to get a bonus for getting rid of the little guy?"

This is what they are saying. They are worried about it, how this all works.

I cannot help but support what the people on my side of the House want to do, which is delay and prevent this bill from moving forward at this time. The morale within the civil service is terrible. It is absolutely terrible. The way of helping build morale is not by imposing things on them. No one ever got anywhere by dictatorial methods. We need a little bit more consideration, a little bit more co-operation.

In January I visited a business here in Canada that had come up with some very innovative ways of dealing with its unionized personnel. This business looked at the bottom line and realized that the confrontational approach was no longer working. It was spending thousands of dollars on cases of arbitration, grievances, and people were very unhappy. It was having problems with environmental things. When people are not happy, they do not