

Supply

Liberal government fights it out with developers over the costs of cancellation. Again, jobs are lost and taxpayers' money is to be paid out with no gain whatsoever.

The infrastructure program begins. Billions of dollars borrowed for infrastructure programs by communities that needed jobs but not increased debt. We know that in a healthy economy it is the business sector that creates jobs, real jobs, and not the government through temporary government programs. As the unemployment figures released last week indicate, the jobs are not there anymore but the debt surely is and will be for years to come.

Then in the 1994 budget it is handed down, the great wait until next time budget. Canadians sat in anxious anticipation, hoping at last a Liberal government would make tough decisions. Who were they kidding? The joke was on the people of Canada. The government they elected, this Liberal government, let them down. Spending programs abound in last year's government's budget.

It is hard to imagine a government elected to make tough decisions using the old phrase that losing sports teams use, wait until next year. This is next year and there is still no sign of any willingness to take tough decisions. The government had a chance but really side stepped it.

Canada was going to go through the most massive restructuring of the social welfare system since it was put in place. Studies began. The minister of human resources made grand announcements. Policy and discussion booklets were produced. Two sets of committee hearings were held. This committee of the House of Commons travelled across the country in both sets of hearings.

Four million was given to 159 special interest groups. The people we should have heard from are regular, hard working Canadians who regularly pay their taxes and receive no special grants or privileges. However we heard from special interest groups to ensure that the committee heard testimony. And to what avail?

• (1230)

The minister of human resources announced that the government will have to deal with its budgetary problems before it will be able to get on with reforms. To paraphrase and perhaps combine a couple of old expressions, when the government's fiscal chickens came home to roost, they could not because the field was too full of social welfare sacred cows.

The Liberals side stepped yet another decision to revamp and reshape our social system. It is hard to believe a government so early in its mandate would admit to be fresh out of new ideas.

No one in Canada who has studied our social welfare system believes it needs more money thrown at it. If the government was not going to do anything, why did it spend all the money studying reform? How much did this exercise cost: \$10 million,

\$20 million? Who knows, who cares? Obviously no one on the government side.

We in the Reform Party care deeply. We care about the country and we care about its people. As elected members to this House we realize we owe the people of Canada a duty, a duty not just to criticize but to present alternatives. We believe that the country's financial situation must be addressed in a positive way before the next election.

As a policy the Reform Party believes the solution to our deficit problem must be found on the expenditure side rather than on the revenue side. Presently the government has more than sufficient tax income.

Canadians expect to pay taxes. Canadians expect the government to spend our tax dollars wisely. When the government mismanages our tax dollars as governments have been doing since the 1960s, Canadians get angry. We cannot blame our fellow Canadians for not wanting their hard earned tax dollars to be wasted on grants, unnecessary byelections, make work programs and government to government international aid, among other things.

I recently heard a suggestion that the Liberals might bring in temporary tax increases. Let us not forget another temporary tax measure which was introduced many years ago. It is still with us today. It is called income tax. This tax takes the biggest bite out of our incomes. But it is not the GST, income tax or any other tax that is the problem. It is mismanagement. The problem is mismanagement of our tax dollars.

As Reformers are saying, Canadians fear that the Liberal budget will be the worst of all worlds: spending cuts that are insufficient to lead to a balanced budget and solve the problem, combined with tax increases that reduce disposable income and kill jobs.

As Reformers have said in the past, we believe the first change should come with reform of the MP pension plan. We are not talking about MPs' salaries, which from what I have seen since I have been in Ottawa indicates that MPs work very hard to earn their salaries. Cuts must also come in the institutions of government; the office of the Governor General, the Senate, the House of Commons, the Privy Council and the Prime Minister's office.

We must look at excessive travel of senior officials and urge the government to reduce the number of ministers of state and associate ministers. Cut down the size of government. The Reform plan in the end is to have a smaller, less intrusive and more efficient federal government.

We can include the electoral boundaries reform. Cut spending. We do not need 295 MPs in the House of Commons or 300 plus, as the government is suggesting. Each MP costs Canadian taxpayers about \$1 million. The country to the south of us has 270 million people to our 27 million. They have approximately 437 in government to our 295. Last week in Washington I met