

*Oral Questions*

Ten years ago we were spending approximately \$1 in every \$9 of revenues to service the debt. It is now \$1 in \$3. The debt has gone from \$18 billion to \$190 billion, and built into the system is a possibility of a \$400 billion deficit. Where would the elderly be if, to service this debt, it required 40 per cent and 50 per cent of government revenues? That is exactly the tragic heritage we were left by the Liberal Party. Everybody knows that we must begin to deal with it, beginning with the senior citizens to whom we owe so much.

We will be conducting ourselves in such a way as to bring down inflation and to keep it down, to make sure jobs are created, that new strength is brought back to the economy so we can do not just what we have been doing for our elderly and others but more, because the elderly are entitled to everything that a grateful nation can provide.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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**EMPLOYMENT****LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, that is not the language the Prime Minister was using during the election, either about the deficit or about our senior citizens.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The fact remains he has left another broken promise on the floor of the House of Commons.

The Prime Minister and his Minister of Finance have been telling senior citizens living in poverty, in defence of this Budget that they have to suffer in the name of some grand new job creation strategy.

I have in my hand a secret document entitled "Communications Plan—Labour Market Development Strategy". This plan is a plan for announcing a job creation strategy on June 18. The Government plans, apparently, to implement six programs. This document was signed three days ago by the Deputy Minister of Employment and Immigration, who said that we have to be careful here because these programs—I am using his words, Mr. Speaker—"look very much like the old approach to programming".

This Government in the Budget—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order, please. This is a very long preamble. Does the right hon. gentleman have a question, please?

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I do, Sir, and I hope to the response to this question you will apply the same even-handed treatment.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Apologize.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Why does that Budget parade a new series of job programs when the Deputy Minister in the document says, "We have to try to dress them up because they are the same old programs?"

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the document to which my right hon. friend refers. I will tell you one thing, Mr. Speaker, that we do not have to dress up because it resembles in no way what transpired before, and that is the 201,000 new jobs that have been created since this Government was sworn in—

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:**—including the 89,000 new jobs created in April alone, which represented the largest single monthly job creation initiative in almost five years in Canada. That is brand new compared to what the Liberals were doing. That is solid job creation, which means the beginnings of a return to sustained prosperity in Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

● (1420)

**BUDGET STATEMENTS**

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, this document makes clear that the Conservative Government is still coasting on old Liberal programs and, what is more, the document relates to jobs which will last for only 16 weeks. In the Budget the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister talked about a long-term private sector strategy. Why does that strategy conflict with the document which the Hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration will table in about a week? What an extraordinary gap in philosophy as paraded in the Budget and revealed in the Minister's own document!

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted the Hon. Member finally got around to recognizing that there is a new labour market strategy in place. May I tell him that the very first program coming out of that is Challenge 85, which was put together for young people, or students, this summer. Some 67,000 young people have benefited from that program so far, as against the 50,000 last summer who did not have career-related jobs—67,000 as against 50,000.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Miss MacDonald:** I can also tell the Hon. Member that this labour market strategy puts into effect something which the previous Government never did, that is, the provision of multi-year funding for the labour market strategy.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.