

S.O. 21

He went on to say: "Some programs are sheer duplication, others are not profitable, and certain administrative activities are a complete waste. Some programs are no longer of any use at all and I will axe them."

Here is what he said in May 1984: "We must find ways to restore a more efficient public administration."

Mr. Speaker, I just quoted the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. Turner). Canadians heard him loud and clear, so they elected the Progressive Conservative Party in September 1984, and they were right. We should not talk about it anymore, that is exactly what the Government has done.

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[English]

THE ECONOMY

MAINTENANCE OF GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT

Mr. Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, we are putting our financial house in order. Since we became the Government in September, 1984, we have seen a steady change toward fiscal responsibility. Not only are we spending less but we are spending smarter. The recent Budget is a clear indication of this.

My constituents, who are owners of small businesses and are agricultural producers, understand the necessity of controlling the deficit. They welcome the provisions for increased employment opportunities as well as the programs for hard-pressed agricultural producers.

Confidence is growing daily as the provisions of the Budget take effect. Look at the falling rates of interest and unemployment, Mr. Speaker.

We said we were going to set Canada on a new course. We have kept that commitment. We said we were going to reduce runaway spending. We have kept the commitment. Indications are that we will have eliminated the deficit by 1990.

My constituents join with me in congratulating the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).

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● (1405)

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER

ALLEGED COMMENTS CONCERNING FORMER MEMBER FOR SAINT-AURICE

Mr. Carlo Rossi (Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, the comments made on the weekend by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) about the circumstances of the resignation of the former Member for Saint-Maurice (Mr. Chrétien) really cannot be taken seriously.

No one in the political history of our country can equal the Prime Minister's expertise in back-stabbing. Just ask Joe. He can show you the scars. Compared to the Prime Minister, Judas who as innocent as a newborn babe. Poor Brian, he is trying every possible trick to win back the ground he lost in Quebec, and he is prepared to stab anyone who gets in his way. Mr. Prime Minister Brian, this is pitiful but not very smart.

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[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

CITY EXPRESS—FAILURE TO PROVIDE SERVICE FOR HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, as you know, Hamilton-Wentworth has a brand new air terminal. However, a terminal without a proper airline makes very little sense. Last Thursday I arrived at the air terminal in an effort to come to Ottawa at 6.30 in the morning hoping to catch the City Express, a non-stop flight. I discovered when I got there that the City Express had not sent an aircraft to Hamilton, that in fact there was no aircraft there, nor was there likely going to be any.

We ended up having to be trucked, as usual, from Hamilton to Toronto by taxi in order to try to make connections.

City Express not only does not provide an adequate service, it does not even have the courtesy to inform its passengers that the airline is not going to be operating on certain days of the week. I suggest that the Government take a serious look at the mandate given to that airline to see if it cannot be changed.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

INVESTMENT IN ENTERPRISES

Mr. Clément M. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, in the fourth quarter of 1985, the optimism of heads of businesses was at record levels, according to a survey by the Conference Board of business attitudes and investment plans.

The percentage of entrepreneurs who feel that the current period is favourable for investment has risen abruptly from the previous high rate of 42.8 per cent in the third quarter to 49.7 per cent in the fourth.

This is the highest rate of optimistic responses since the second quarter of 1979. According to the Conference Board, business heads are also more optimistic than they were before about the prospects for our economy.

Mr. Speaker, what a change since the last quarter of the Liberal administration in 1984, when in fact 45.9 per cent of respondents to the same question did not think it was the right time to invest in Canada!