

The Address—Mrs. Maily

billion, they made over 300 promises which the Leader of her Party estimated would cost approximately \$4 billion.

The other night the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) stated that the deficit this year would be approximately \$34 billion. However, the Hon. Member and many of her colleagues are using the excuse that they cannot move forward with many of the election campaign promises because of the financial situation. How can they say that they cannot move ahead with those promises because the deficit is now \$34 billion—according to the Minister of Finance—when during the election campaign promises were made when they said the deficit would be between \$36 billion and \$37 billion?

Mrs. Maily: Mr. Speaker, I would be delighted to answer that question. I mentioned at the beginning of my speech today that one of the problems we wanted to address in the Speech from the Throne was the structural problems in the economy. Those problems have been neglected for many decades.

One of the structural problems is the growth of the debt which we discovered once we were in government and could look at the books. We did discover, as the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) said, that there had been great waste. We had to wait until September 17, when our ministers could get a look at the books, to find out how big a waste. That is number one.

Number two is that the debt was growing at an even greater and alarming rate than we had anticipated. When we were talking about \$36 billion, \$34 billion or \$35 billion, we were talking about the year 1984-85. We could see only the tip of the iceberg. I believe the Hon. Minister of Finance made it very clear in his statement that it was the shock of seeing the direction which the debt was taking, compared to the growth that could be possible, that made him decide if we did not stop adding to the debt now, three or four years in the future we would be in even greater trouble, and we would never have the freedom to address the problems. Not only that, we would not be able to do anything about the 1.5 million unemployed people.

The last thing I would like to say about the promises made during the election campaign is that the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) made it very clear that we would not keep all of those promises in the first 15 minutes or the first 15 days of government. We are only in the third month of our first mandate. I believe the Hon. Member would enjoy waiting around and seeing this unfold. He will be quite surprised to see how many of those "so-called promises"—which are actually only solutions to problems which had been created by the Hon. Member's own Government—are going to come up.

● (1740)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Another brief question. The Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East (Mr. Allmand).

[*English*]

Mr. Allmand: I am not used to getting that much applause from the Conservative Party, Mr. Speaker.

The Hon. Member did not answer the question as to why they made—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Allmand: I listened to the Hon. Member very peacefully and quietly. She did not say why the Conservatives made over 300 promises amounting to \$4 billion when they knew that the situation was serious. She did not answer that question. However, let me ask the Hon. Member this. She said, "We are going to deal with the deficit, the structural problem, by cutting out waste". Is she telling this House that over \$9 million which is being cut from the budget for social housing is waste? There was the even bigger cut the other night from the amount for the rehabilitation for old housing in older districts of our city. Is she saying that was waste?

Mrs. Maily: No!

Mr. Allmand: Is she saying that the cut to the foreign aid budget was due to waste; that the cut of \$5 million from the student loan budget was due to waste? I would like to hear the answer to that. I would like to hear her tell us clearly and simply if that is really waste they are cutting from the budget.

Mrs. Maily: The answer is no, Mr. Speaker, those were not the wastes I was referring to. I was referring to the fact that we are stuck with this enormous debt which is growing like a balloon and we have to do something. We have to take the measures with the courage you did not have in order to do it yourself.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Maily: We could have done as your Government did in 1980 and announced to the world that—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order. I wish the Hon. Member would address the Chair.

Mrs. Maily: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Maily: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker, it was precisely because the Government of the hon. gentleman did not have the courage to address these problems that we wound up with them. We had to look at all of the programs. We had to be equitable in the way we were going to distribute this bad news. And this was because of the fact that the Hon. Member's Government never did have the courage to look at any bad news. Even in 1980, Mr. Speaker, when the Hon. Member's Government was re-elected, after saying all had gone to rack and ruin, it did not have the