

Government Orders

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): Let me just say to the hon. member that as far as cutting defence, this government came out with the statement in September that it wanted to do more cutting. It had a new white paper that would set up a new committee, but two years before it had a white paper that said it was going to do something else.

I do not want to get really tied up in that.

Cornwallis, in case the member does not realize it, is our only basic recruit training base. It serves all three forces very well and is not costly in terms of a \$12.8 million budget.

I just think that a \$12.8 million budget today may have to be looked at in light of the changing world. We are always going to need new recruit training, so let us leave Cornwallis with that. I am sure the hon. member would agree with me.

You could find other needs for Cornwallis. You could put in the UN peacekeeping, as the committee to save Cornwallis has said. I do not want to waste my time because he has challenged me on other things. I have a list and I will send it to him and any newspaper that wants it. I presented such a thing to the minister's committee.

There are areas of taxation that we could perhaps do away with. We would have to do away with all the business lunches and all the perks that businesses have and cut back there. Maybe that might give us a little more revenue somewhere else. Maybe we have to look at other things that the Economic Council of Canada has recommended and not been acted on by this government.

I want to say something on the other side, and I want to be positive about this. If we cut and reduce the Canadian dollar, we will allow our natural resources and businesses to get going again and create jobs. As jobs are created there will be more people who pay taxes which come back into the coffers. Use the UI fund for job creation instead of paying people UI out of general revenues. You can do so much training and then there is no job after their months or year of training. There have to be jobs. Get people working. Put in an infrastructure. Finally, do not believe that this government or any government can put its ills and its lack of imagination to find a way out of this, on the backs of the needy, the poor, the children, the old, the women under 65 with no

income and the jobless. We have never seen so many permanent jobless with nothing coming to them from any level of government. You just have to go to Yarmouth and see what has happened to a town that was supposedly booming, according to *Maclean's* three or four years ago.

We do not have to put that burden on the poor. If you want to sit down, I will tell you some of the other areas that I would cut.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I may point out that we have now had five hours of debate.

[*English*]

It is now time for 10 minute speeches without a question or comment period.

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin my remarks by complimenting my colleague, the hon. member for South West Nova, and say that I am proud to serve with her. I agree 100 per cent with every comment she has made and I salute her.

Mr. Crosby: Including cutting national defence.

Ms. Clancy: I do not think the hon. member for South West Nova, who happens to be the member for one of the largest training bases in this country, was saying that, but if the hon. member for Halifax West understands it that way, I suggest he check his comprehension.

I begin my remarks by saying that during the Christmas break I happened to read a new book called *Conversations with Canadians* by Knowlton Nash. One of the conversations was with Robin MacNeil of the U.S. Public Broadcasting System, MacNeil-Leher Report. He is a son of Nova Scotia, as many of you may be aware, a writer and broadcaster. They talked about George Bush's theory of a kinder, gentler America. Robin MacNeil responded that there is a kinder, gentler America and that place is Canada.

I agree with that up to a point. There is a kinder, gentler America that is Canada or, sadly, there was. Unfortunately what we are seeing and what we have seen over the past six years is an attempt to dismantle this kinder, gentler country. One of the things that will dismantle it very quickly is the end of the social safety net upon which Canadians depend and of which Canadians are so justly proud.