

Government Orders

The government has taken a very tough stand on reducing the deficit and our net savings over three years will be \$20.4 billion. We have only been in government for three and a half months, but we have to put some hope back into the economy and get some job creation going. Any further cuts would cause the fragile economy to slip back into a recession.

Mrs. Jennings: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for his comments.

I stress again that I talked about reviews and studies. In answer to the hon. member, more reviews are not what we need. It is time for action. A deficit of \$39.7 billion is certainly not tough at all and does not address the issues that have to be addressed.

Mr. Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Where would you cut?

Mrs. Jennings: The Reform Party put out a very good zero and three which went into detail. If I had another hour I would go through it with the member.

I would like to point out something to everyone in the House. I am very concerned about the infrastructure money. Where is the money coming from?

Mr. Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Existing budgets.

Mrs. Jennings: I was in my constituency last week and they said they did not have the money for more taxes. The federal government is going to lend it to them.

An article in the *Globe and Mail* dated February 11 warns very much against the infrastructure money. Every tax increase causes a loss of jobs. Taking \$7 from a taxpayer to pay for a construction industry job means taking \$7 away from a job somewhere else: a department store, the auto industry or a clothing manufacturer. I insist that is going to be a problem down the road.

The Deputy Speaker: The time appears to have expired. I might remind the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry that nobody heckled him while he was making his remarks.

Mr. Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I did not think I was heckling the member. I was merely pointing out some factual information that did not seem to be a part of the address. I certainly did not think that was out of order. I have been here, not as long as you, but for six years and—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. That is certainly not a point of order.

Mr. Hugh Hanrahan (Edmonton—Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise in the House for my first major address.

It is with a great sense of pride and humility that I stand before you and the rest of Canada as the representative for Edmonton—

Strathcona. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of my riding for the trust they placed in me as their representative in the 35th Parliament. I would like to assure them that I will do my very best to represent their views in the House of Commons. I would also like to thank my wife Dianne and daughter Margaret for their support and patience during the campaign.

The constituency of Edmonton—Strathcona is an extremely diverse riding with a wide range of small and medium sized businesses. It is also the home to, in my opinion, the best educational facility in the country, the University of Alberta.

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It was the youth of my constituency who gave me the inspiration to seek a seat in Parliament. Clearly they recognized the implications of the national debt on their futures. Given the increasing debt and the demographics of our country, it is little wonder that so many of our population of all ages look with such growing concern at the future implications of this debt. While both the Reform Party in its blue book and the government in its red book have taken significantly different approaches to the debt problem, neither party has suggested it be attacked by placing the burden on youth.

The Reform Party, while suggesting many cutbacks, also suggests that these cutbacks be prioritized. In surveying our members and Canadians in general we have concluded that a number of areas must be maintained. These include federal grants to medicare, the environment and advanced education.

If we are to leave a Canada to our children similar to the Canada our parents left to us, then we must offer hope to the younger generation. We must not only attack our debt but do it in a manner which allows for a clean environment, a healthy and educated population able to confront the global economy in a confident manner. This is one of the major challenges of this Parliament.

To emphasize the present situation let me cite the following. A recent article by the *Globe and Mail* reporting on a study from Statistics Canada stated that unprecedented numbers of young Canadians have been wrestled out of the workforce. Proportionately more of them lost their jobs than adults and it will take longer for them to gain back these jobs than it will be for adults. The same article, quoting Dr. Phipps of Dalhousie University, suggests it is possible that by the time the economy does produce good jobs a fresh generation of better trained, better educated young people will be vying for these jobs. The prospect that a combination of all these factors could produce a lost generation is very real.

On a more individual level, I would like to cite a letter received by an employer in my constituency from a recent university graduate. In it he states:

I am a 1993 graduate of the University of Alberta with a BSc in meteorology. Unfortunately due to the state of the job market, I had no success in gaining employment in my field. I would like your company to consider me for any position that may be available from answering phones to lab analysis.