

*Government Orders*

times provide services more rapidly, as well as more efficiently, in certain sectors.

Our privatization exercise has been successful, as he well knows, from a strictly economic point of view. He is also aware that our civil servants enjoy employment security and he is trying to tell us that the morale in the whole federal Public Service is at its lowest level. I will tell him that is not so.

The private sector throughout the world is going through an extremely difficult period. By comparison, I believe that to be a member of a Public Service such as ours is a rather extraordinary privilege. It is an extraordinary privilege and the mere fact that we have job security and substantial fringe benefits must, I believe, make us appreciate what we have as members of the government as well as members of the federal Public Service.

[English]

**Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South):** Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned that a member of the government party would have this view of the morale of the Public Service and the rights of tenure that they have because this point of view gets promulgated out into the public at large in the country. It is false on two points.

On the issue of morale, the government's own documents on the task force report on service to the public identify low morale in the Public Service as a problem. It is clear by the surveys, particularly at management level, morale of Public Service workers is lower than equivalent people in the private sector. Morale is a problem. He did not even need to go out on the lawn of Parliament Hill last fall to meet the thousands and thousands of demonstrators. All he had to do was read the government's own documents.

The notion that Public Service workers somehow have a contract for life is long gone. I can introduce him to constituents. One comes to mind very recently, over 50 years old, over 20 years in the Public Service, laid off. Where is he supposed to find a job at this stage? The member who just spoke has just told Canadians across the country that kind of thing does not happen in the federal Public Service in Canada. I can tell him that it is happening in this city every day of the week.

[Translation]

**Mr. Harvey (Chicoutimi):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. colleague is trying in vain to impress me because the reputation of all the public services throughout the country and in particular the federal Public Service is well established. If our fellow citizens have a negative opinion of the Public Service, it is because the former Liberal government imposed on it absolutely ridiculous decisions that almost bankrupted us.

Do not forget that in 1984 the deficit was \$40 billion—\$23 billion interest on the debt and a \$17-billion program—spending deficit which, after seven years, we have transformed into a \$12-billion surplus that we just applied to interest payments this year. We reduced the deficit by 25 per cent and we expect to have a balanced budget in four or five years.

The whole federal Public Service will be proud of such a record in four or five years. Do not forget that the reputation of civil servants is due to the bad administration of the former Liberal government. To the extent that we reach our objectives, those people will be proud to work with the federal government.

[English]

**Mr. Mills:** Mr. Speaker, I am going to try to make a very simple point here to the hon. member. If you were at the Ottawa airport on a Friday afternoon, or any day for that matter, and there was only one security check because the government had said: "We are only going to allow one security check at the airport", all of a sudden the line-ups would become so large that you would end up missing your plane. The whole system would shut down. Do you think that is efficient? Do you not think that would cost the taxpayer money?

The same thing is happening in the Department of Immigration. Because of the cuts to the number of public servants in the Department of Immigration, we have a backlog of 55,000 refugees in the city of Toronto.

• (1740)

In the last two years in housing, social service payments and dental bills it has cost the Canadian taxpayer \$3 billion, not to mention the morale of those poor people who are working 15 hours a day sometimes six days a week. What is a better system, hiring a few more