

*The Budget—Mr. M.R. Tremblay*

improve working conditions and help the cause of the unemployed. Profit is defined in the dictionary as: "An increase in the goods one owns, or the improvement in status resulting from some activity". I would even suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the concept of labour should be added to that definition.

We can say that the Government has honoured its commitment to ensure economic revival and job creation. What better way of helping the SMB's generate jobs and new R&D activities than our Progressive Conservative budget? The Government has realized that the only way to give the economy a forward push was to strengthen the SMB's and avoid hindering their development. As many of us have already said in this House, I will repeat, Mr. Speaker, that the Budget brought down by the Minister of Finance is realistic, efficient and fair. The Budget does recognize that Canadians individually and collectively will be able to achieve the desired economic progress. At the same time, it does recognize that there is no wonder solution, but that a balanced program involving growth, better management, decreased expenditures, and tax increases, is a starting point for the reorganization of our finances and the nationalization of overall Government management.

The Government has put the emphasis on the private sector because it strongly believes that stable and meaningful jobs are better provided by business people. This Budget is clearly a step in the right direction towards an economic renewal.

You will note, Mr. Speaker, that in my remarks up to this point, I have dealt mainly with that aspect of the Budget that promotes private initiative. This was the first of the three areas in which the Budget proposed measures for economic renewal. The two other areas are improving Government effectiveness and controlling the national debt. The Budget will enable the Government to better manage the affairs of the state. We have dealt with a few simplifications of Government programs, and finally the Government's financial responsibility takes precedence together with its will to cut down on the huge size of Government. The Government, in its capacity as a trustee, will reduce the funding of many Departments and review several programs, in order to better allocate whatever funds are available.

Mr. Speaker, the Government also is exercising restraint at the financial responsibility level, by proceeding to reduce subsidies, to rationalize the public service, even eliminating 30,000 jobs, to improve cash management, to dispose of surplus buildings—to close down plants manufacturing products for which there is no demand—to increase cost recovery, to move towards an improved and renewed budget process.

The reduction in the huge size of government will be achieved not only by rationalizing the public service and various Government programs, but also by privatizing Crown corporations. Thirteen of them will no longer compete against small businesses. After they are sold, disbanded or integrated into existing departments, small businesses will be better able

to develop in those specific areas. This will help restore their faith in the Government.

• (1250)

As much as small businessmen used to be suspicious of the Government, they will now be motivated to succeed. Their competition will no longer be subsidized by the Government. We are opening up avenues for conscientious and hard-working businessmen.

The last point I wish to raise is the matter of getting our national debt under control as soon as possible. This Budget counters the effects of the heavy legacy left by the previous Government. All those who have positive or negative reactionary tendencies should keep in mind that this Budget is only a partial aspect of the general policies of our Federal Government. However, the Budget projects our image to foreign countries. For instance, the Western Energy Accord will restore confidence in Canada at the international level. It will stimulate the flow of foreign currency into Canada. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, as far as investments are concerned, whether the bills are blue, red or green and measure 3 by 5 inches or 7 by 8 inches, we shall accept all of them equally for the simple reason that this is what we want from other countries. We do not want foreign workers who are supposedly better qualified to manage our businesses because many of our business people are said to lack intellectual vigour. We have the human resources we need. We only have to identify them, to go and get them and urge them to do their share in improving the economy.

Our Budget represents a major break with the past and gives us some hope of stabilizing our deficit. A reduction of the deficit means a decrease in interest rates for borrowers, which is economically beneficial for the Government, for businesses, and also for individuals. A reduction of the deficit also brings down inflation, which decreases the need for indexation, but let us leave this matter aside for the moment. Let us simply say that the approach chosen by the Government is a gradual one and that the Budget is the first step. However, the Nielsen Task Force is still considering ways to reduce spending.

In conclusion, I wish to emphasize that our Government is taking seriously the mandate for change it has received last September 4. Emphasis is on job creation, growth and Government responsibility. We are fighting three things: unemployment, unemployment, unemployment. Unemployment among young people, unemployment among the middle-aged and unemployment among people on the eve of retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I repeat that this Budget will prove effective by creating new jobs for Canadians. It will no longer be politicians and bureaucrats who decide for Canadians where to invest and how to create jobs. The initiative will now be taken by the people, not by the Government.

Mr. Speaker, I have the great pleasure to confirm that our Government has taken the measures required to create a