

The Budget—Mr. Lewis

People in Simcoe North were also concerned about the deficit. We do not want to mortgage our children's future with horrendous deficits; we want spending controlled. We want to eliminate the waste.

Given those problems facing us today, Mr. Speaker, what is our position on the budget? How do we view it? Did it address job creation, the problems of small business, mortgage interest rates, the plight of farmers, the lower and middle class taxpayer and the deficit? Those are the points on which I want to base my remarks today.

Faced with record high unemployment as a result of Liberal policies, what did the Finance Minister do to reverse the trend? First—and I approach this with some spirit that the Government has recognized something—the Minister acknowledged what Progressive Conservatives have been saying for years, namely that the private sector creates jobs, not the bureaucrats. I must admit that there is great interest in how the Finance Minister ever made the bureaucrats swallow that pill, but having swallowed it, let us look at the budget itself to see whether or not the Minister, in true Liberal tradition, was saying one thing and doing another.

The budget unveiled Special Recovery Programs designed to dazzle the Canadian people into thinking that the Liberals are doing something. The Liberals are going to spend \$4.8 billion on capital projects next year. Of course, all Canadians realize that figure was originally \$4.6 billion, which was adjusted overnight as a result of what is known colloquially throughout Canada as the "Lalonde leak". That is a good indication to Canadians of how much care went into the preparation of the program. We are asked to believe that this will accelerate the recovery of the economy. In fact, we all know that it is another Liberal pork-barrel scheme to buy votes and favours.

● (1115)

The area of Midland-Penetanguishene will be shocked to find that the ILAP designation has been eliminated in the budget. After three months of waiting for that designation, after all the time and money spent on its application, the hopes and dreams of those people were dashed by the Government when it abandoned the ILAP concept.

We honestly thought that the Liberal Government would understand the crying need to create jobs in Canada. Once again we are amazed that they do not. Instead of quick and easy programs designed to encourage business, to hire people and to train them with a minimum amount of fuss and paperwork, we are besieged with short-term projects of devious long-range value. The programs referred to under the budget initiatives boggle the mind. Their end value as vehicles for employment are doubtful.

However, I would suggest that the enrolment of 5,000 young people in the reserve and regular forces of the Canadian Forces is a step in the right direction. In my opinion those young people will be enrolled and learning a trade and preparing themselves to make a contribution to Canada long before the bureaucrats in Ottawa have designed the forms for the other so-called job-creation programs. After all that, after enunciating the fancy programs, the Minister of Finance (Mr.

Lalonde) admits that unemployment will average an unacceptable 12.4 per cent in 1983 and that there will be 55,000 fewer jobs in 1984 than there were in 1981. What a sad commentary on an economic statement which, in the words of the Minister of Finance, was to help more than 1.5 million Canadians who want to work but cannot find jobs.

What did the budget do for small business? Canadians know that the Liberal Party is responsible for the current joke about small business: "Do you want to own a small business while the Liberals are in power? That is easy, buy a big one and wait." As I suggested, the investment tax credit provisions are complex. They presume the availability of funds to make investment and thus qualify for the tax credit. In fact, the available capital of small business has been severely impacted as a result of the Liberal-created recession. Small business has very little money to invest.

The other investment provisions are, in my opinion, for stockmarket investors, not for small business. What about the Federal Business Development Bank? I see the Minister responsible for small business in the House today. I understand he will make an announcement when he speaks, so let me deal with that announcement. What about the noises concerning what will be done through the FBDB? As a lawyer who worked with small business until becoming involved in politics, I want to say that when I see the Federal Business Development Bank doing something for small business, that is when I will believe it; not with announcements, not with brochures, but when I see it actually doing something for small business.

Let me quote from a letter I received from a constituent that deals with the Federal Business Development Bank, the "people's bank":

As you have been advised, prior to the completion of our investigation of your request for financial assistance the Federal Business Development Bank will require a prepaid commitment in the amount of \$3,950.

● (1120)

That is the kind of help we are giving small business. It is a bank of last resort. If you are going broke and have \$3,950, it will look at what you are doing. If the Liberals are serious about helping small business, they will act immediately to improve that image. They will put money into loans, not bureaucrats who pretend they understand business.

When the Minister makes the announcement about the Federal Business Development Bank becoming an investment bank and taking shares in small business, the question I will have for the Minister is how will the FBDB maintain its objectivity as a banker when it puts on the investor's hat? Why, when it is not the policy of the chartered banks in Canada to ask for a commitment from small business before looking at a loan proposition, is the Federal Business Development Bank demanding that kind of money?

Lastly, under the guise of helping small business, I want to deal with the loss carryforward provisions, called the loss carryovers. The Minister makes a big deal about increasing the loss carryover provision as a boon to small business. The