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about the amount of the deficit and the government's ability to address it, he has never come close.

Yesterday the government released its budget deficit figure for 1991-92. The final figure of \$34.6 billion for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1992 is \$4 billion more than the previous fiscal year and is more than \$3 billion higher than what was forecast in the federal budget last February.

When the Conservatives first took office in 1984, they inherited a period of reasonable economic growth in Canada. Yet, even with this period to build upon and after introducing well over 30 new or increased taxes which taxed Canadians into oblivion, they have nothing to show for it at the conclusion of their eight-year reign of economic terror. Any other respectable government would be ashamed of itself. Not this one. Its economic philosophy of stay the course has been the same since day one in 1984. It has stayed the course. While the government has remained ideologically sound, it has all but bankrupted the Canadian economy.

It is unconscionable for this government to run ads on national television about how Canada can be competitive in the world and how job retraining programs are providing the impetus for the Canada of tomorrow. Every Canadian knows that we can compete with the best in the world if given the opportunity. Unfortunately it is very hard to be competitive if the federal government itself is incompetent.

It is no secret, as much as the present government would like it to be, that there are not enough funds to meet the demand for job retraining programs.

I recently participated in a rather unpleasant experience in my riding. The local Canada employment office in Cornwall had to inform unemployed workers participating in educational upgrading programs that there were not enough funds left to see them through to graduation. Some of these individuals were finished their first year of courses and were well on their way to learning new skills, to being better qualified and thereby obtaining improved opportunities at re-entering the work force. I can assure you that the "yes we can" slogans from the government's TV ad campaign were not going over very big then.

I would like to make one other point, and it is with reference to the impact that the economic policy of the government has had on small businesses in Canada. I believe that small business is the backbone of the Canadian economy, however the goods and services tax and the myriad of taxes that have descended upon small business owners have forced many of them into bankruptcy.

The combination of the ongoing recession, the implementation of the GST, the recent high interest rate policy of the government and the reluctance of the Canadian consumers to purchase goods and services while in fear of losing their jobs have all had a disastrous impact on the ability of small business to survive.

It is my belief that not only has the small business community had to endure the fall-out from the government's economic mismanagement, it has perhaps suffered a significant blow to the desire of individuals to take the risk and start up a business.

I believe the federal government has done a considerable amount to erase the entrepreneurial spirit in Canada. With today's tough economic climate, there are not too many people eager to rush in and start a small business. Such a situation does not hold much promise for a better economic future for Canada. Given the number of Canadians that small businesses employ and their importance to the Canadian economy, it is imperative that measures be taken to rekindle the entrepreneurial spirit in our country before it is lost forever.

One of the first steps in that process and also to bring about an over-all economic recovery would be for the Prime Minister to dissolve Parliament and provide Canadians with an opportunity to elect a new government that has both the ideas and the ability to bring about the real and economic change.

The Prime Minister has stated that come election time his government will have nothing to fear in going before the people of Canada on its record. If this is indeed the case, the Prime Minister should refrain from looking at polls and go to the people instead and to do this at the earliest opportunity for the sake of Canada and all Canadians.