

The Budget

However, in the budget the minister announced cuts of \$44 million to the CBC. It now appears that the minister plans to cut of over \$350 million to the CBC. When I asked him a question about the plan in the House he denied the plan, suggesting that my allegations were pure invention and that Mr. Manera, who had subsequently resigned, had done so for personal reasons and that no more cuts were planned. It sounded like an incredible soap opera to me. That night, in an interview, Mr. Manera stated that he had resigned because of future cuts to the CBC and not for personal reasons. Only one of the two men could be telling the truth.

The next day in the House I presented to the minister a copy of the secret document, which the minister's officials had given to Mr. Manera, which outlined three years of cuts to the CBC. This is how the minister interprets honest and open government. First, he purposely withheld this information from the budget figures. Second, he denied the document and the accompanying cuts even existed. Third, he now admits the document exists but that it means nothing and that the president of the CBC is misguided.

This kind of pathetic performance eats away at the integrity of government. Canadians want to know how their money is being spent and that it is being spent wisely, based on a responsible plan for future spending. The Minister of Canadian Heritage has a different story every time he is asked a question. How can anyone take him seriously, especially organizations within the cultural community? His performance has left the CBC rudderless, without a chairman, without a president, at a time when it needs leadership the most, at a time when it needs to make the transition to the private sector.

• (1735)

Further, last year the CBC was given a special borrowing authority for \$25 million. It turns out that this borrowing authority is \$25 million into perpetuity. Last year, at the end of the fiscal year the CBC proved it could not meet its budget and came back, cap in hand to Parliament, and as stated in the supplementary estimates it received another \$3 million. The CBC is just one example of gross financial mismanagement in the minister's portfolio.

The finance minister alleged that the Liberal government met its financial targets last year. However that can only be Liberal math, for when we look at the Department of Canadian Heritage's supplementary estimates we see it is very much in the red, that none of the targets were met.

Let us look at some of the government organizations which ran over budget: the Department of Canadian Heritage corporate services program, \$1.1 million over budget; the Canadian identity program, \$1.4 million over budget; the parks program, \$3.5 million over budget; Advisory Council on the Status of Women, which thankfully is gone, \$76,000 over budget; the

CBC, \$3 million over budget; the Museum of Nature, \$82,000 over budget; the National Archives, \$561,000 over budget; the National Battlefields Commission, \$125,000 over budget; the National Capital Commission, \$12 million over budget; the National Gallery, \$187,000 over budget; the Public Service Commission, \$4.5 million over budget; and last, the Office of the Co-ordinator of the Status of Women, \$162,000 over budget.

Thirteen organizations under the control of the Canadian heritage ministry went over budget. Canadians expect and deserve more from government. When will the minister finally take responsibility for the complete disarray and overspending of his department?

When governments continue to deficit finance they hurt Canada's future economic health. By failing to balance the budget, by failing even to announce when the budget will be balanced, the Liberals have shown they understand little about fiscal planning.

The Liberal Party continues its tradition of being borrowers of both money and ideas. The continuing failure to bring in a single, new, original thought begs the question of whether it will be able to lead Canada to economic stability within the current mandate.

Mr. John Bryden (Hamilton—Wentworth, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for Calgary Southeast for her remarks but she left me wondering. In the early part of her discourse she reported a 20 per cent increase to the status of women.

I do not know to what organization she refers. I would like very much if she could elaborate on that, what her information is, what details she has and what her sources are, if she would not mind.

Mrs. Brown (Calgary Southeast): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will refer to the estimates he will see that with the inclusion of the Department of Human Resources Development, moneys were brought over from that department. Approximately \$20 million is within the ministry of the status of women and represents the increase that I suggested.

Further to this, now that we are on the whole approach of the change to the status of women, it represents a remarkable shift in the Liberal policy. We are seeing economic pragmatism overtake social liberalism, which is incredible.

It is a shift into a Conservative-Reform territory which one would have never anticipated. The Liberals left their liberal ideology and embraced certainly Conservative ideology. The Reform Party has influenced dramatically this approach. We saw it in the budget and we are now seeing it in the downsizing and restructuring of bureaucratic departments.

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the hon. member a question. She seemed to get off on a bit of a tangent thinking that all these government