

Supply

with an income assistance plan for people during job loss periods.

The member for Calgary North has been working on this idea for many years. In my latest householder on the single tax I give him credit for this idea because I think he is on the right track. The fact that he is a Conservative with a great idea does not bother me. But the point is that the leadership candidate from Etobicoke—Lakeshore put forward this idea in the debate.

I was amazed that the Minister of National Defence and the Minister of the Environment who are both leadership candidates essentially supported the idea. Now how do we explain that when we are sitting here in the opposition and see that on television? We say: "Well if those leadership candidates are supporting this idea and they have access to the Minister of Finance, much better access than we have, and two of them are cabinet ministers, well then where were they in cabinet meetings?" Where were they when they said that the number one issue in this country, along with putting people back to work—and that is how we address the issue of deficit and debt reduction when people are paying taxes rather than being a cost to the Treasury—was the issue of comprehensive tax reform?

The leadership candidate from Etobicoke—Lakeshore initiated that idea and was followed by the environment minister and the defence minister. I was totally shocked because when the government Whip made the comment about this budget being a disgrace, emotionally I felt the same way when I heard that. During that debate the situation was almost hypocritical because two senior cabinet ministers who were leadership candidates were pushing and promoting this idea. Obviously the Minister of Finance walked away from it and walked away from something the people of Canada really wanted.

This government has really missed the boat. It has been so obsessed with the GST that the same thing is happening with it. It quotes the numbers that the GST is bringing in. It brings in \$30 billion worth of gross revenue and it nets \$15 billion. In other words it is supposed to have \$15 billion which it contributes to the treasury, but the government does not calculate what Canadians have gone through in order to generate that \$15 billion.

• (1255)

What I mean is that when it does its cost-benefit analysis—I do not believe it has done this—it does not put forward certain costs. It has not costed the paperwork for small businesses. It has not costed what it has done to the tourism industry which is our greatest job creator. It has not costed what it has done to our retail businesses, our food service businesses and our restaurant businesses. The government has not done any of that. One will find when one calculates all of those costs into the equation that the GST has done nothing for this country but break its spirit.

I believe the people of Canada are not going to be fooled three times. I think the people of Canada are wise to the fact that the tax policy of this government is not working. Look at the notion that one can dismantle a nation and cut and slash programs that create assets and dignity for people. There is the fact that the government has cut these programs and thinks that it is going to get away with this propaganda and illusion and make people believe that it is doing it for the good of the country.

I do not believe for a second that there is anyone over there who means to do ill to the country. I just really believe that government members do not have any idea how to manage it. That will be shown in the next election when the people of Canada have caught up with them.

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to join in such an important debate sponsored by my colleagues and to support the government Whip in his description of this budget as being a disgusting creation.

The debate comes at a very interesting time. Yesterday there was a press conference in town by a group working on family policy. Also yesterday the C.D. Howe Institute released the book *The Partnership in Trouble* talking about the difficulty in fiscal federalism that was not attacked at all by the Minister of Finance.

More important, Statistics Canada just released a new document called *Income After Tax, Distributions by Size in Canada 1991*. The previous speaker whom I would like to question knows full well the importance of income tax on individual families.