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Rather, the finance minister has managed to reach his deficit reduction primarily through expenditure cuts. For every \$1 of revenue increase contained in the budget there are \$7 in spending cuts. These cuts are reached largely through a rationalization and downsizing of government while ensuring that the spending cuts do not jeopardize the social programs Canadians value so dearly.

I should like to comment on three specific areas which the budget affects: social programs, small business and changes to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

• (1055)

While many Canadians including myself were encouraging the minister not to raise personal income taxes as part of his campaign to fight the deficit, equally compelling was the need to maintain the hallmark of Liberalism, our social safety net.

It was the Liberal government that built the social safety net and it is the Liberal government that is committed to maintaining our social programs. The problem was to adjust the programs to reflect the challenges and realities of the nineties.

Too often complaints were heard about how the social security system did not aid those most in need. At the same time it was becoming obvious that the social safety net was in many instances not providing incentives to Canadians to become less dependent on assistance.

Helping individuals to get back to supporting themselves must be a fundamental goal of any social system. In an attempt to encourage innovative and timely approaches to social security the government has established the Canada social transfer. This payment to the provinces will combine payments for health, post-secondary education and social assistance into one payment called the Canada social transfer. It will allow provinces the flexibility to pursue innovative approaches to the programs.

In conjunction with the transfers the federal government will impose national standards on all provinces as a condition of receiving funding. It will ensure that our commitment to provide for the most vulnerable in society will be maintained. For example, the Canada Health Act and its standards of accessibility, portability and universality will remain intact. Further, the Minister of Human Resources Development is to meet with his provincial counterparts to work out a set of national standards to govern post-secondary education and social assistance.

It has been said that the provinces will receive less funding under the Canada social transfer than previously. However the government has shown its commitment to social programs by cutting its expenditures in this area much less than it cut expenditures in other areas. Further, by announcing the changes in its transfer payments this year to take effect next year, the federal government has given provinces plenty of notice of the changes so that they may have the time to prepare.

Statistics show that under the Canada social transfer total transfers including equalization to the most needy provinces—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will have the floor when we resume debate at the end of question period.

It being 11 a.m. we will now proceed to Statements by Members.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

[English]

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. John O'Reilly (Victoria—Haliburton, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, recently I had the opportunity to participate in an infrastructure event in my riding of Victoria—Haliburton. Announced were eight projects valued at \$1.1 million for the Victoria County Board of Education, including the installation of computer wiring to give students better access to the information highway.

There have been 153 infrastructure programs announced in my riding in places like Fenelon Falls, Haliburton, Kinmount, Minden, Bobcaygeon, Kirkfield, Apsley in Brock township and my home town of Lindsay. They have totalled over \$25 million and created thousands of part time and permanent jobs.

The Canadian infrastructure program is an investment in the future. It has improved communities. It has upgraded the quality of life across the country. Most important, it has invested in the education system for our future. It is a success.

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[Translation]

TURKEY

Mr. Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the Turkish offensive against the Kurds continues to cause many casualties. Today, 23 more Kurds were killed in Southeastern Turkey.

While Turkey continues to violate the most elementary rules of international law, Canada turns a blind eye. Even worse, although Germany has suspended deliveries of all military equipment to Turkey, the Canadian government has started negotiations with Turkey on the sale of its CF-5 fighter planes.

This is one more indication that the Liberal government's foreign policy is totally inconsistent.

The government must stop hiding its head in the sand and condemn forthwith the unacceptable behaviour of one of Canada's military allies by bringing this difficult matter before NATO and the UN Security Council.