

projected deficit of \$32.8 billion in the forthcoming year, senior citizens will still be better off in Canada than anywhere else. Full universality of old age security pensions will be guaranteed. No current pension income will be reduced to fight inflation or to cut the deficit. Full indexation of guaranteed income supplements for the most needy will be maintained.

Cost of living supplements will be paid to all pensioners when the Consumer Price Index rises above 3 per cent. Indexation of spousal and veterans pensions will continue. Larger contributions to RRSPs will be permitted tax free. Plan holders will be allowed to purchase shares in Canadian-owned corporations. Best of all, inflation will be checked by responsible fiscal policies. Canada will still have a better Old Age Security Program than anywhere else in the world.

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[Translation]

THE BUDGET

SALE OF CROWN CORPORATIONS

Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recall the new approach taken by the Government with respect to Crown corporations, as set forth in the Budget brought down last Thursday by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).

I was glad to hear that Crown corporations with a commercial value but no ongoing public policy purpose will be sold. In this connection, the Government intends to divest itself very shortly of Teleglobe Canada and Canadian Arsenals Limited, as well as its interest in the Canada Development Corporation. Crown corporations with no commercial value and no effective public policy purpose will be dissolved or absorbed within existing departments. Thirteen corporations have already been identified.

Mr. Speaker, Government operations must be leaner. It is not enough to be well-intentioned. A vigorous effort is needed to streamline and enhance the efficiency of our public administration. For 20 years, Crown corporations have been allowed to proliferate. Twenty years of white elephants!

Spending public money to make their dreams of centralization come true, that was the goal of the Liberal Government. We were elected to clean up the mess, and that is what we are going to do.

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THE BUDGET

IMPACT ON REMOTE REGIONS

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, the people of New Brunswick were appalled to hear that the

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Progressive Conservative Government has decided to ignore their needs in its Budget.

It is indeed discouraging when we realize that the Government has decided to stop encouraging our regional small- and medium-size businesses by cutting federal grants by \$100 million this year and \$150 million next year.

It is discouraging when we hear that the transportation sector will lose \$75 million this year, and we all know how vital this sector is to the Atlantic Provinces. It is also discouraging to realize that the price of gas has gone up again, especially since in the Maritimes, the price of gas is already very high. It is very discouraging to hear that transfer payments to the provinces will be limited from now on.

It is discouraging to be hit with a host of tax increases that will reduce the disposal income of consumers and result in more employment. It is discouraging to hear that Old Age Security pensions and family allowances will no longer be indexed to the consumer price index.

Finally, it is really discouraging when we realize that middle- and low-income Canadians in remote areas stand to suffer most as a result of the draconian policies the Progressive Conservative Government has decided to inflict on Canadians.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LEBANON—ASSAULTS ON PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, the three Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra, Shatila, and Bourj al-Barajneh have come under armed assault by the Shiite Amal militia and the Lebanese Army Brigades. Another Palestinian refugee camp has been encircled by the Amal militia.

During the attack the Gaza Hospital was partially destroyed, and 95 wounded Palestinians were murdered in their hospital beds. Some 450 Palestinians refugees were killed, and over 2,000 were wounded in the fighting. Another 2,000 Palestinians have been kidnapped. No distinction is being made between men, women, and children.

The Palestinian refugee camps have come under continuous and merciless shelling. No supplies have been allowed in, nor have the wounded been evacuated. The Red Cross has been denied permission to administer humanitarian assistance. Victims are being allowed to die when they could have lived.

I urge the Government of Canada, as a conscientious and humanitarian body, to call upon the Governments involved to halt the horror. I also call upon the Government of Canada to make immediate representations urging provision be made to allow the admittance of medical and food supplies into the camps, to permit the evacuation of the wounded and burial for the dead, to provide safety for those in medical centres who are