

*Routine Proceedings*

Now that this government is in its second term, arrogance is setting in.

**Ms. Black:** Setting in?

**Mr. Boudria:** My colleague says: "Setting in?". Maybe it was there all along, but it certainly has reached new depths as this second term is well under way.

The degree of arrogance is inversely proportionate to the popularity of the government. As of this morning, the government has a popularity of something like 19 per cent. Only the member from Madawaska could find that funny.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Robichaud:** It is even lower where he comes from!

**Mr. Boudria:** Madam Speaker, we know that the government's reserves in the past were about \$3.4 billion. This year, the government has chosen to play with the figures a little. So they decided arbitrarily that the reserves would be reduced to \$2.3 billion.

This morning, my colleagues and I asked Treasury Board officials how they could live with that amount. They said that they would be very thrifty. But those are the reserves, Madam Speaker. They are used when there is a drought in the country, when there is a fisheries crisis, when, for example, there is economic hardship in Saskatchewan, when the people on the west coast have difficulties, especially those who work in the fishing industry. These scenarios are quite possible this year. What will the government do? It will not even have any more reserves.

By reducing the reserves, the government claims to be cutting expenses. Either some people will suffer a lot this year because there will be no funds in the reserves to deal with such unforeseen situations or the budget estimates presented to us today mean absolutely nothing because they will not be adhered to in any case.

[*English*]

Let us look at some of the cuts in the Estimates in detail. We have a budgetary comparison between the Estimates of last year and this year.

You will remember during the election campaign the Conservative party said that it was going to establish a separate department of forestry. Most Canadians would have thought that that meant more money was going to go into forestry. Not so. You see, you have to think like a Tory a little bit here. You create a department and take away the funds. That way you can pretend that you live with the promise while doing the exact opposite.

So what did the Tories cut from that? They have cut \$47 million.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Robichaud:** It was just a lot of window dressing!

**Mr. Boudria:** The hon. member for Beauséjour (Mr. Robichaud) says it was window dressing, and he is right.

[*English*]

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety is a subject that has been raised in this House very eloquently by our colleague for Hamilton West. We see a cut here of \$2.9 million.

Let us look at the National Capital Commission, an agency whose mandate is to make this city a better place. I remind the minister that in a previous incarnation he used to be the member for Ottawa Centre. It was a very short career that he had as the member for Ottawa Centre at that time. But he will recall in his days when he was the member for Ottawa Centre that it was his job to ensure that this city was a capital for all Canadians. Now, of course, he has changed constituencies, and the budget for the National Capital Commission is proportionately reduced.

The Secretary of State's area is one in which we see those major cuts of \$5.45 million. That is one of the areas in which Parliament does not know what is going to be cut, save and except one or two lines in the budget of the Minister of Finance, the seat-mate of the President of the Treasury Board.

With respect to the Minister of State for Multiculturalism and Citizenship's department, our colleague for the Western Arctic indicated to us yesterday in this House just how wrong those kinds of cuts are. Nevertheless, the government is proceeding with those cuts in the area of \$121 million.