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### REFORM PARTY

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, over the past weekend the Reform Party held its convention in Saskatoon. It was clearly a well stage-managed production. I am a little concerned, that with all the lights and the hoopla, what actually transpired over the weekend may have been lost: the Reform Party has already sold out.

It is a shock for me to see that the party that was so quick to join with the NDP in the fight against the GST actually back-pedalled on the issue this past weekend. They now support the hated GST. It was truly disappointing. They are beginning to look more and more like the Tories already. Like Tories, they support user fees for medicare. Like Tories, they want to tear down the Wheat Board and orderly marketing for farmers. Like Tories, they want the free trade deal to go even further. And like Tories, their well-heeled backers call the shots.

Mr. Speaker, the well-financed, well-polished image the Reform Party projected over the weekend was no mistake. The Reform Party is nothing more than Tories in a hurry.

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### CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Yesterday I joined many of our colleagues and thousands of Canadians to witness three Canadian warships return to their home port after nearly eight months' absence.

On Sunday, April 7, Her Majesty's Canadian Ships *Athabaskan*, *Terra Nova* and *Protecteur* sailed proudly into the dockyard in Halifax, returning with the same professionalism and dignity they displayed during their impressive and reputable contribution to the Persian Gulf war. These ships stopped 1,800 merchant vessels and boarded 22 in their enforcement of the United Nations economic sanctions against Iraq.

This House and all Canadians can look back with pride at this example which shows the ingenuity, dedication and commitment displayed by all those officers, men and women in the Canadian forces and with the Department of National Defence who knew their duty and did it well.

[Translation]

### GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, on March 20, the House of Commons Board of Internal Economy decided to cut \$5.6 million in the 1991-92 Budget for the Parliament of Canada.

The cuts affect the committees' operating expenses as well as the printing of parliamentary publications and the discretionary expenditures of parliamentary associations and delegations. Moreover, it was decided to use only one telecommunications satellite instead of two for the parliamentary television network.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud these cuts, but we could do more by cutting down on our discretionary and other expenses of the Parliament of Canada and the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, later this week, on April 11, I will disclose to the people of my riding the total cost of my discretionary expenses and of running my Parliamentary offices. Can the members of the Bloc Québécois do the same, yes or no?

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[English]

### UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, the latest unemployment figures were released at the end of last week and revealed that unemployment stood at a shameful 22.2 per cent in Cape Breton, which was double the national average.

These figures do not include those whose unemployment insurance benefits have run out, those who have simply given up and those who have lost all hope of ever finding a job.

It is another bleak spring for Cape Breton, with no hope for a better or brighter summer. That is bad news for young people who are seeking summer employment in order to pay for their education. Tuition fees are rising, prices are rising, taxes are rising, but opportunities are declining.

Once again this Prime Minister and this government have failed. They have failed to respond to the severe economic problems Cape Breton and the country continue to face.