

*Supply*

If that is the case why for the love of God are those line-ups getting longer in every municipality and city across the country? In other words average Canadians would ask themselves: "If things are so good why are they so bad".

The government hides and wants Canadians to believe that if it cuts, cuts, cuts only and exclusively and more on top of that, the economy will fix itself. That is wrong. It is economically dishonest to say such a thing.

[*Translation*]

**Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville):** Mr. Speaker, I rise again to denounce a stand fast budget presented by the minister who does not dare to make waves for the leadership candidates. This long-awaited budget does nothing for the people of this country, nothing to revive the economy and above all it does not create jobs. But the ordinary people know that is not the way to manage a budget if you want to survive.

• (1205)

[*English*]

It seems that the minister has thrown in whatever he could to have something to present to the House. It is ridiculous. The best example of the government's pettiness may very well be in its plan to reduce the number of GST rebate cheques from four to two.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Mrs. Maheu:** Just a minute and I will explain it to hon. members.

After deciding to compensate seniors and the poor for having to pay this unfair tax, the government is telling them that in order to save money it is reducing the number of cheques from four to two starting in January 1994. Was the Minister of Finance hoping that we would not catch on to the fact that if one GST rebate payment is sent in January and the other is in April the rebate of nearly half a billion dollars goes into the next fiscal year? By shifting the date of the rebate he is making the deficit only appear to improve.

We know he is doctoring the books to make the deficit picture look better. However it is only an illusion. We saw it for what it was: deceit yet again. Canadians will see this as well.

[*Translation*]

Since the Conservatives took office, the country has gone from bad to worse. We are in an unprecedented economic slump and it seems that the more the government tries to solve the problem the worse it gets. Maybe the government does not see the obvious or maybe it just does not have any idea of how to manage. If not, this is an excellent bluff.

The public debt and unemployment have become such everyday occurrences that Canadians despair of overcoming these problems some day. Every year when the budget is presented, the government promises economic recovery and job creation. Officially nearly three or four million unemployed are still waiting, not to mention those on welfare. These unemployed people, who just want to work, trusted a government which has really let them down. And what about all those on welfare and the homeless?

Is this what a healthy society should be? Is that what the government considers a sound economy?

[*English*]

The country cannot afford another Conservative government, a government that does not seem to know how to manage a budget and to get us out of the red, a government that is scared of cutting its own cabinet but expects everyone else to survive on less, a government that will not touch the MP pension plan and set an example of restraint. There are ways to find money here and there. Adding it up it could make a difference.

If the government were really serious about cutting the deficit, making real inroads into the deficit or the public debt, it would have looked into restructuring certain policies and programs that are outdated. If programs are fulfilling a mandate that is no longer required, then get rid of them. The needs of the public change. It is time for the government to be more responsive to this need for change.

We need an efficient and effective bureaucracy that helps Canadians. After nine years of Conservative government it is time for a real change. The government needs to put into place programs that will help Canadians get jobs. Every time the government says we have created so many jobs it forgets to mention that many more were lost, and this is forever, because of its economic mismanagement.