

The Reformers receive their \$20,000 and their \$6,000, whether they live at the Travelodge or at the Chateau Laurier. They are pocketing all that extra money, and good for them. But saving the taxpayers' money? Hardly! They are hypocrites, fellow senators.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**Senator Tkachuk:** In Matthew, Christ chastises those who pray so that all will see; that's the Reformers: "Look at us, how frugal we are," while they keep the money. The politics of envy, fellow senators.

Honourable senators, I wish to say that this well-orchestrated PR campaign — and that is all it is, a PR campaign — has succeeded because most of us live our lives within our own means and think nothing of it, while Reformers think they are alone in trying to get by. They will be eating gruel soon, I think. It is also a contrast of style, and the media seems to buy into it. They do not understand that everything is not necessarily what it seems.

For example, I will be sharing an apartment here with my fellow senator, Senator Gustafson. We have a nice, two-bedroom apartment.

**Senator Gigantès:** Two?

**Senator Tkachuk:** A two-bedroom. We have two bathrooms, a kitchen, and a view of the city of Ottawa.

**Senator Perrault:** Luxury.

**Senator Tkachuk:** Our apartment is within walking distance, just like the Travelodge, but it is a much shorter walk than from the Travelodge.

Oh, I forgot to mention that we have perks, too; we have access to a swimming pool, a health club and a nice restaurant.

**Hon. Senators:** Shame!

**Senator Tkachuk:** Perks! Meanwhile, those Reformers pay \$40 a night, about \$640 a month, plus taxes, if they only stay four nights per week, four weeks per month. Meanwhile, I have access to my accommodations every day while Parliament is in session, for \$20 a night, or based on four nights a week, for \$37.50 a day.

I might add that I am a pretty good cook. Senator Gustafson does not know that, but I hope he likes household chores, because I think we will make a fine couple. Perhaps we will even go to the Governor General's together. I enjoy cooking, so I can put a little sweat equity into a meal, which the Reformers are obviously not able to do at the Travelodge. I can broil a T-bone steak or a sirloin, and do baked potatoes, mushrooms, apple pie and coffee for well under the \$9.95 it costs for the old rib-eye at the bistro.

**Senator Perrault:** Is humble pie served?

**Senator Tkachuk:** I want to ask you, honourable senators, who lives better and spends less? And Reformers claim they should be running the country!

[ Senator Tkachuk ]

The point I wish to make, honourable senators, is that we are confronted by many serious issues in the country, and we must attack wasteful spending at all levels of government. However, I think we should do it in the trenches of Parliament and in committees.

Honourable senators, let us move forward to attack the deficit as a nation. Let us focus on the issue of jobs and the economy, and let us be honest with the people. Let us not be afraid to attack the money changers in this temple of democracy. I predict that, in the future, many people will see that the Reformers do not represent the Conservative values of Macdonald, Diefenbaker, Borden, Stanfield, Clark or Mulroney, but rather the values of authoritarianism, pretentiousness, propaganda and irresponsibility.

In the next few years, I pray for the success of the Liberal Party. I never thought I would say that, and probably never will again.

**Senator Gigantès:** We will hold you to it.

**Senator Tkachuk:** I congratulate their victory while I weep for our party's failure. I pray that they succeed in holding the country together, while I hope we will be of assistance as we rebuild our broken party. I know that we will be sympathetic with their attempts to control the deficit while we argue our point of view as to how the tasks should be done.

Finally, honourable senators, I thank many of you for your kindness and assistance on my arrival here, those from my party especially. I thank you for your patience on the occasion of my first speech in this place. As well, I should like to thank the politicians I have known, respected and loved — Grant Devine, Brian Mulroney, Robert Stanfield and Joe Clark, whom I have served under, and Senators Barootes, Buckwold and Steuart, and Senator Hnatyshyn, the father of the Governor General — those who have come before me — for giving me an example of excellence and devotion to our country.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Gerry St. Germain:** Honourable senators, it is a distinct honour and a real privilege to stand and deliver my first speech in this place. First of all, I wish to congratulate you, Your Honour, on your appointment. I watched with due diligence and waited with bated breath for the appointment of the Speaker, and I do not think that the Prime Minister of this country could have picked any better.

I should also like to congratulate Senator Fairbairn and Senator Lynch-Staunton. These are very difficult times we are living in, and their leadership will be called upon time and time again. I look forward to working with both of them in cooperation in building this great nation.

My maiden speech in Parliament was delivered some 10 years ago in the other place, where, as a rookie in politics, I was chosen to serve the people of Mission—Port Moody in British Columbia. For five years, I undertook very seriously the responsibility bestowed upon me by my fellow citizens.

Like some other honourable senators in this chamber, I have served Canadians in both houses. This duty I have always taken seriously, and the opportunity to serve I have always cherished with considerable honour.