

Government Orders

that \$180 billion was the social cushion that we as Liberals put forward during the worst recession of the early 1980s. It was not just on unemployment insurance. We never capped CAP. We also had the special recovery projects in which we had all kinds of municipal projects going coast to coast.

When this government talks about living within its means, from \$180 billion it took it to \$410 billion. This government seems to somehow think that Canadians are so stupid that they will not realize that this government is responsible for \$210 billion of that debt. What has it got to show for that \$210 billion? It has dismantled Crown corporations which serve public policy. It has sold off lands across this country which serve public policy instruments. It has made cutbacks in every initiative.

I was in the Middle East last week, in Aman, Jordan talking to a group of Canadian small and medium-size businessmen. This government talks much about global trading and there is billions of dollars worth of business opportunity for Canada in the Middle East. In that entire region there is a very warm hearted feeling toward Canada. I must say it is mostly because of the previous Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau, not this government.

This government talks about globalization and trade and yet these businessmen had their PEMD grants cut. This government has not supported global trading in the last six months for the business people of this country who want to go over there and try and write up orders that could come back here and fill our factories and create jobs. There is a total inconsistency with what its stated objectives are in terms of this fiscal responsibility and what its actual actions are. This government has not done a thing in the last six months to take a chance on the human capital that exists in this country. It has not come up with one job creation program in the last six months. People are telling us day in and day out that we have to do something to stimulate this economy, to get people back to work.

I am not saying to throw more money at it. I am not saying we should ignore the deficit or the debt of this nation. The only way we are going to tackle the deficit and debt of this nation is through full employment. The only way we are going to get full employment is by some

inspiration and support to the 900,000 entrepreneurs who are currently employing 85 per cent of this nation.

As we start this new season, this new Parliament, when Canadians are looking for some hope, looking for some initiative from this Parliament of Canada, we have to figure out a way to communicate to the government that it should take a chance on Canadians. It should stop listening to the officials in Finance who are so obsessed with the deficit that they are exacerbating it. They are stifling creativity. I know there are many good members on that side of the House who are in their own way solid, performing entrepreneurs with good ideas.

The Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister must listen and give support so that we can get people back to work. Once we reduce the unemployment problem, which is the paramount issue in my mind and in the minds of any of the constituents I talked to in the last six weeks, the draw on the assistance plan is going to subside.

There will be no need to bring in this bill. Right in the middle of a period of cold winter when people need help most, the government, on its first day back, comes out with a bill that wants to restrict payments to those most in need in our society.

I think it is bad timing. I think it is in poor form, poor taste. Let us shift the direction of this House of Commons to the number one issue, job creation, even if we have to debate it around the clock until we figure out ways on which we can all agree to get people back to work immediately.

Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my hon. colleague.

I represent the riding of Sudbury. In the 1980s there was a major recession and our area was extremely hard hit. I have the voice of experience when it comes to what timely make-work projects can do to a community and the kind of boon it can be, and the kind of stimulus created. As a result of these stimulants injected into our economy in the Sudbury area in the early 1980s, today we perhaps are one of the regions hit the least, at least in northern Ontario. That should not prevent the government from preparing some kind of measures to help those other areas which are equally hard hit now. The regions may have changed. Some of them are the same.