

Last year, the federal Budget included \$33 billion just to pay the interest on the debt. Just think of the other programs we could finance. Still the debt keeps growing larger every year, every day and every hour. In fact in the 20 minutes I have to make this speech today, the debt will have been increased by \$1 million. That is just how fast this debt is escalating.

The Throne Speech stated very clearly our commitment to tackle this country's finances. Our actions over the past four years have resulted in a \$10 billion reduction in the annual deficit. We must continue to reduce the deficit by reducing the size of the Public Service, selling off Crown corporations that no longer serve a public purpose and reduce over-all spending. There is no other option, Mr. Speaker, if Canadians are to have the economic foundations they need to continue to prosper.

One hundred and twenty-two years of Confederation and centuries of history have given Canadians a unique heritage of democracy and freedom. That heritage is honoured by every person who shares the responsibility of our citizenship. As someone who was brought up in rural Canada, I am very aware that while Canadians share a heritage of independent freedom, we also have a very special ability to work together. Our history is full of examples of families and communities joining together to meet a special need. Forty years ago in the small village of Harwood, where I was born in Northumberland County, the community joined together to build a community hall which my parents spearheaded. Next week I have the honour to go back to that community hall to make a speech.

Today in Scarborough Centre, men and women volunteers visit seniors' homes throughout the riding to perform numerous services. Included is the Wexford Senior Citizens residence in Scarborough where my mother lives. Volunteers arrange events, hold activities and make seniors' lives more pleasurable and more fulfilled.

In concluding this debate on the Speech from the Throne in the 34th Parliament, the second session, let us be mindful of the words of the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker in his famous Bill of Rights when he said, "I am a Canadian, a free Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship God in my way, free to stand for

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what I think right, free to oppose what I believe wrong, free to choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind".

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Questions and comments? The Member for St. Boniface (Mr. Duhamel).

**Mr. Duhamel:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I listened attentively to the comments from the Hon. Member, and I just have a few remarks which I will perhaps culminate with a question.

Clearly the creation of jobs is something that all Parties endorse. It is not simply, and I say this kindly, one particular Party or the Government that is committed to that. I think the question we have to raise is what kinds of jobs are created with what kinds of opportunities for the future.

Likewise, the reduction of the deficit; I do not hear anyone here saying that the deficit should not be reduced, but I do hear a lot of people asking: How will it be reduced? That is a fundamental question that Canadians are raising today. A little caution on the figure of a \$10 billion reduction of the deficit. If my memory serves me correctly, it was roughly \$38.2 billion in 1984-85. That means it would have to be about \$28 billion today. My information is that this is not so. I would just like to remind everyone here that 1984-85 had two different Parties in office. In fact, the current Government was in office for half a year.

[*Translation*]

What bothers me when I listen to speeches by Hon. Members on the Government side in this debate on the Throne Speech is that there were very few comments on the importance of research and development, additional funding for colleges and universities and additional aid for literacy training.

I think there is a flagrant contradiction here. The Government often says it is very important to fund these programs so that we will be able to compete in international markets. If we realize that Canada is funding research and development up to only 50 per cent of what is being done in the United States, Japan or Sweden, I think there is a contradiction here.