

Then we have the NDP. Its socialist Utopia has not worked any place in the world so we can dispel that.

We know the Reform Party must be different. We have a situation wherein it is the people versus the elite. Who are the elite? We have talked about the elite a lot before. It is the national media. Certainly it is the old line political parties, the bureaucrats at the top and in many cases big business and banks. Those kinds of people are all part of the elite.

What are the people saying about all of this? They are saying: "We won't take it any more. If you keep spending you are going to pay". The message should be loud and clear. The people's power should be obvious to everyone here but it is not. The last message was in the referendum. The elite to the very last person said: "Vote yes. It will be good for you". However the people said: "No way". The people found out about it. They worked on it, got information and made their decision. They were not heard that well, though.

In 1993 there was another message. We know what that resulted in. What do we have to look at? The people are saying reduce and the government is saying increase. On pensions the people are saying eliminate and the government is saying modify. On the Senate the people are saying abolish and the government is saying ignore and promote. On RRSPs the people are saying raise and promote and the government is saying: "Maybe we will tax them". On jobs the people are saying: "More money should be in the hands of people" and the government is saying: "We will have infrastructure and more bureaucracy. The government can, after all, still take care of you".

In conclusion I quote from Terry Moore, a radio announcer in Calgary:

We have had it, and you have got to get a handle on this and attack the debt and deficit in Canada and quit playing political games with our future, our children's future, our grandchildren's future and our great-grandchildren's future—because if you don't pull it together, this country will go down the tube.

Mr. Paul Szabo (Mississauga South, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the member's comments. It is fair to summarize by indicating that members of the Reform Party will continue to raise spectres, rumours, innuendo and tax revolts. They will continue to say they are going to do many good things.

However, the important point is that Reform Party members have been tinkering around the edges. They have ignored and failed to explain to Canadians how they are going to deal with their \$15 billion cut in social programs. They have not articulated a specific initiative by which they would deal with social programs. They have not told Canadians the truth about what they really have planned for Canada.

Supply

• (1625)

We have a source for what Reform Party members plan. I want to give an example. It is articulated in their minority report included in the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development report that was tabled last Monday. I refer the House to their first three recommendations.

The first concerns the guaranteed income supplement in which 40 per cent of seniors participate. They are recommending increasing the age of eligibility. On old age security they are saying: "Eliminate old age security for seniors who have above average incomes". On the Canada pension plan they are recommending raising the retirement age, raising the age of eligibility.

It is fairly clear that the true agenda of members of the Reform Party is slash and burn. If they do not believe our seniors represent a significant portion of the poor in our country they have lost touch with Canadians.

Mr. Mills (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, if I were the finance minister I would say to wait until next week, but I will try to answer the question.

The member can wait until next week but he will see that those in need have to be totally taken care of. People at the upper end who do not need it are quite willing to accept their share of the responsibility to get the country going. They are saying that as long as it is equal and fair they will take those cuts. However the people at the bottom will have to be taken care of. The most needy can never be out on the streets, as the member would like to portray. Next week he will see the exact details of what we are talking about.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean Landry (Lotbinière, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my friend's presentation. I agree with him, our financial situation is critical, but there are solutions nevertheless.

A while ago, I heard him speak of the Progressive Conservative Party which I believe is part of history. I think that when you are really optimistic, whether you are a government party, a person or a group, you look to the future. Therefore, we must widen our horizons and determine what aspects of our taxation system can be changed.

For example, since we are here to represent the population, I think it is important that we propose solutions whenever we criticize. I do believe that together we will succeed in addressing the problem of the enormous deficit of our country.

[English]

Mr. Mills (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question.

I agree with him 100 per cent that we should not be tinkering around the edges and that we should look at some major reforms, certainly a flat tax system, a new system of taxation that is much