

to do that but I have to apologize to my friend in the front bench here if he does not get a chance to speak.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** There are 45 seconds left for questions.

**Mr. René Soetens (Ontario):** Madam Speaker, I will make mine very quick, because I know the member has been a member of Parliament for about the same period of time I have, all but for a few months. We have the lowest deficit that we have experienced since we have been in Parliament together.

In her three years of experience, we have identified 45 agencies we are closing which is going to cost 500 people their jobs and affect 2,000 in total. Has the member in her three years of diligent work on behalf of her constituents found other agencies she would like to recommend to us today that she would be prepared to see us close down?

**Miss Grey:** Madam Speaker, I am certainly not prepared to give names of agencies. If this is in fact a serious question, there are many, many areas. I could take the hon. member on a 10 minute walk from Parliament Hill and identify—

**Mr. McKnight:** Which one? Name them.

**Miss Grey:** Name one agency. I will do more than that. I will name every federal cabinet minister in this. I would say the best agency we could cut a lot of spending in is trimming this over-bloated federal cabinet from 40 down to at least 25 members. I think that would be a wonderful start.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** The time has expired.

[*Translation*]

Resuming debate. The minister will take 10 minutes?

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Yes, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Very well. The minister has the floor.

**Mr. Blais:** Madam Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to support the budget brought down by my hon. colleague. Incidentally, I think it is rather interesting to see how skilfully members of the Reform Party avoid taking a stand on the supply management issue.

### *The Budget*

People who are listening should realize that the Reform Party both objects to and agrees with the Dunkel report on tariffication. According to them, we should abandon Canada's historic position. That is the Reform Party's position, because there was a question about it just now. Unfortunately, we could not get a specific answer. However, Canadian farmers from all over Quebec and especially from Ontario, where the Reform Party— This party is not interested in Quebec, for reasons which escape me, or perhaps I should say its interest in Quebec is limited to getting up on the same table with the leader of the Bloc Québécois. Both leaders want two Canadas. They agree on that score, but when it comes to telling us how we should run the country, they are not as forthcoming.

Under previous governments, Canadians were often misled by people who promised them proper control of public spending, which was seldom successful because of all the spending they did. We inherited a \$38 billion deficit in 1984, which had gotten completely out of control. It is too bad the hon. member for the Reform Party can't hear me, Madam Speaker. It is too bad, but I will mail her a copy of the text.

• (1910)

Since 1984, we have been involved in a fierce struggle to control the deficit. We reduced the size of government bureaucracy and the number of government employees. We made the bureaucracy "lean and mean". I think we have made its operations more effective and, above all, we realized the danger of letting deficits escalate freely. However, we decided against leaving this sinister legacy to the next generation. As the latest attempt to stop the spiralling deficit, this year's budget is a model of restraint, a document that maintains the programs Canadians hold dear while taking the fat out of the government bureaucracy and controlling the deficit.

Thanks to the 1992 budget, Canada will seek to achieve sustainable growth, and we will have laid the foundations for the prosperity of future generations, Madam Speaker.

The budget brought down by the Minister of Finance in this House elicited an unusual reaction from the media: nothing but praise and approval. In the newspapers, on television, observers throughout the country have approved of the direction taken by the federal government. Business reacted positively to the lower tax burden on manufacturing and processing and also, to the stronger support measures for research and development. In a difficult fiscal situation, finding more money