

S. O. 31

[English]

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

Mr. John Williams (St. Albert, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the election in Ontario I rise to outline yet another Liberal broken promise.

On page 20 of the red book the Liberals promised to reduce the professional and special services budget of the government by 15 per cent. What has happened? The professional and special services budget has increased by \$136 million.

The Department of Transport saw an 86 per cent increase in the need for special assistance over the past year. Even the governor general needed special help to the tune of \$87,000 more than last year.

This is just another example of the lack of Liberal will and ability to cut spending. Meanwhile the Reform Party has put forward more than 50 motions to eliminate wasteful spending in the main estimates which will be debated tonight.

Will the Liberals live up to their red book promises and vote for spending reductions? We will wait to see.

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ONTARIO ELECTION

Ms. Shaughnessy Cohen (Windsor—St. Clair, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, Reformers, Tories, same old stories in Ontario.

Tomorrow is E-day and in Windsor and Essex county, the centre of the universe, we are ready. We live on the U.S. border and we can see the effect of Mike Harris style politics every day. We do not want Ontario governed by the republicans of the north.

We want universal access to health care. We want our brand new casino industry to thrive. We want good, competent, compassionate government: McNamara, Duncan, Pupattello, Crozier, Hoy.

Republican, Tory, same old story. That is not what Windsor wants.

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[Translation]

MIKE HARRIS

Mr. Mauril Bélanger (Ottawa—Vanier, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, last week, a few days before the Ontario provincial election, the Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario, ACFO, held its annual convention in Toronto. This organization has defended the interests of Ontario's francophone community for decades.

The leaders of the Liberal, New Democrat and Conservative parties were invited to attend. Mike Harris, the leader of the Conservative Party decided, however, not to. Would Mr. Harris' decision not indicate how little interest he has in Ontario francophones? It would seem so.

● (1410)

Ontario's francophones want a government that is sensitive to their needs, a government that is not afraid to respect their rights. Clearly, Mr. Harris has little concern for these claims and for the francophone community of Ontario in general.

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[English]

ONTARIO ELECTION

Mrs. Brenda Chamberlain (Guelph—Wellington, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, Ontario Conservative leader Mike Harris has promised a referendum on any future tax increases. This reads like Reform Party policy. Maybe the people of Ontario could call Mike on a 1-900 user pay service. His motto could be "when I want your opinion, I want you to pay for it". Mike could seek advice on issues that are important only to him, or Mike could do what Reformers are known for, ignore the people and vote the way the Reform politicians think best.

The people of Ontario want action and they want jobs. Liberal promises are real and they will be kept. In 1993 the people of Ontario elected only one Reformer. They have shown their common sense. Tomorrow they have a chance to once again reject doom and gloom and lots of empty promises by putting the Conservatives where they belong, as they did the Reformers, in opposition to stay.

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[Translation]

IMMIGRATION

Mr. Philippe Paré (Louis-Hébert, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the pathetic muddling of the officials of the Department of Immigration is getting worse at the Canadian embassy in Paris.

As members will recall the immigration department refused to grant a visa to the Algerian film maker Mrs. Koudil so she could present her film at the Vues d'Afrique festival. The department had to reconsider its position.

Then, visas were denied to three Algerian actors, who were to put on a play at the Theatre Festival of the Americas denouncing the rise of fundamentalism in Algeria.

Now, two Algerian grandmothers are drawing the officials' ire. These women are over 65 years old and want to visit their children and grandchildren living in Canada, as they have done in the past.