

Supply

than Quebec, I think it would go a long way toward helping the economy of this entire country.

I support the remarks of the member for Calgary Southwest who, unlike her Reform Party opponent who always deals in vague generalities, always speaks in specific terms about the issues she addresses. I do not always agree but that is fair. I do respect the member for Calgary Southwest for always dealing with issues in specific terms.

I want to start by saying that I felt good about my leader's motion today on the economy. Many people in this country have been waiting for our leader to be more specific about some of his thoughts on the economy. Today I felt he provided a lot of specifics.

He started off by referring to a value system that the Liberal Party would have as its cornerstone, as we are working a developing policy, hopefully in preparation for the opportunity to govern this country. He talked about a value system that talked about caring and approachability and a lot of compassion. He talked about a government that must really deal in terms of integrity.

I know that people from coast to coast are pleading for a value system like that to become a focal point again in terms of the policy we develop in this country.

Getting off the value system and on to a more specific area, I want to talk about the national debt of this country. There is one thing I hear over and over again from the government members that is almost like a part of a strategy, and that is that they cannot give a speech without referring to the national debt, the deficit and the debt. It is almost like a brainwash experience that they are putting the people of Canada through. I have noticed this as I have sat in the far corner of this House and listened to people over the last few months.

First of all, this government has exaggerated the debt of this country. It is terribly exaggerated. The exaggeration is close to \$40 billion. It does not count the reserve of the Bank of Canada which is close to \$23 billion.

Who controls the Governor of the Bank of Canada? The Government of Canada. That is a fact that it does not recognize in its calculations. There are also other reserves that it has which is another \$23 billion that it has not calculated. I am not saying the debt is unimportant but I do not like this government's approach of trying to sort of scare the Canadian people into a state where

nothing else matters but the national debt of this country.

We must address the problem. I am not saying that we should ignore it, but I think that one of the best ways to handle the debt of this nation is to make sure that we have a productive labour force.

The Gross National Product of this country is approximately \$625 billion to some \$630 billion. Can we imagine if the productivity of this country went up by some 10 per cent? We are talking about an intake of gross revenues into the system, if we kept expenses and inflation in line, of close to \$60 billion.

I grant that all of that does not come back into the national Treasury. But my point is that the best way to handle the debt of this nation is with a galvanized work force where we have a galvanized will, a will that wants to succeed.

What instruments does the Government of Canada have at its disposal to work at galvanizing the will of this nation? It is from a galvanized will that productivity will increase. It may be low at 10 per cent. We should not just be thinking in terms of productivity being the number of widgets we make in an hour, because someone will be more productive.

We should also think of the creative juices that come from a work force that is galvanized and motivated. As I was about to say earlier, what instruments does the Government of Canada have? The one instrument that this government has that can touch everyone in this country is the tax designs.

This government has failed miserably in its tax designs. When it came to power in 1984 it promised comprehensive tax reform. I rest my case to the people of Canada. I think that the corporate income tax and the personal income tax reforms of this country have failed. The government should not look to the opposition to hear criticism. It should just listen to its own constituents. It could see the attitude reflected in their work habits. The tax designs of this country right now are a disincentive to productivity. The very thing that we need in order to address the problem which the member for Calgary Southwest mentioned earlier is the national debt.

It has exacerbated the problem, of course, with the goods and services tax. Now we are heading into a new season, a new budget is out there around the corner and