

The Budget

I remind him that the neighbouring riding of Kitchener is also encompassed within the model community cited by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

The hon. member is well known in the area for his interest in and knowledge of environmental matters. I was wondering how the budget would affect the Waterloo riding and community. He referred to the Friends of the Earth comment about the finance minister and this particular budget. Waterloo is an area where environmental related businesses are most prominent. Is it likely that those businesses will be assisted by this budget?

Mr. Telegdi: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and neighbour from my sister riding.

There is no question that the Waterloo federal riding and my community has a great history of involvement in environmental matters.

I refer to a situation which probably started in terms of heightening environmental awareness in Canada. In the Love Canal in the United States toxic substances were impairing the lives of people. The company working on that was Conestoga-Rovers which is located in Waterloo. It is one of many companies that has started up in our region.

I can say to the member for Kitchener that yes, this budget will very much enhance those operations. We hope to be one of the centres of excellence. I believe we already are and we can build on that to make sure in the new economy Canada gets its fair share of international business for cleaning up the environment.

Mr. Jack Ramsay (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his speech. I would like to ask him a question about the budget.

Does the hon. member have an opinion as to the consequences this nation will face if we add another \$100 billion to the federal debt in the next three years? There is no indication within the budget speech or the budget itself of any such consequences.

Would the hon. member care to comment on it?

● (1825)

Mr. Telegdi: Mr. Speaker, it was not too long ago that I and many of my colleagues were debating these very questions at all-candidates meetings. I have always been amazed at the extent to which it was hard to get the point across, particularly to members of the Reform Party.

Our position has been very consistent. It is in our red book. We went to Canadians. We told them about it. We put the plan forward and it is the foundation for everything we do. I believe this is where we differ from their approach. Fundamentally, we as Liberals believe in making this economy grow. We have

outlined in our expenditure program that is exactly what we are going to do.

The Reform position was that it would eliminate the deficit within three years. Our position was that we would cut back the deficit to 3 per cent of the GDP in three years. The leader of the Reform Party has stood up on different occasions and challenged the government to attain that 3 per cent of the GDP. From looking at this budget and from studying the figures my answer is that we can.

I have to say to my friend from the Reform Party I hope he will stand in this House and applaud when we do accomplish that. We believe we have to make this economy grow. We cannot shrink it. If the economy shrinks we will go back into a recession. We have to believe in ourselves and we have to believe in the Canadian people.

Mrs. Karen Kraft Sloan (York—Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, as a new member of Parliament I am pleased to deliver my maiden speech.

I am humbled by the history of this place and yet comforted to be part of the long tradition of Canadian democracy. This is not to say that tradition is static, unchanging. In fact, this is far from the case. Tradition, particularly the Canadian parliamentary tradition has adapted and evolved throughout the history of this institution.

There are many pressures on Parliament, on government and on parliamentarians to transform the way government operates. Economic, social, environmental, technological, political and global forces all act in different ways to challenge, to push and pull, to mould a new kind of relationship people have with their institutions. The Minister of Finance and the government recognized and welcomed this.

As a result the Minister of Finance has set upon an unprecedented budgetary process, a process that does not end with this one finite document. It is a process that if allowed to develop fully will lead to a new kind of partnership, a real and meaningful partnership among the people of Canada, their government, and their social and economic institutions.

It is only when we are able to understand the full extent and nature of our problems and when we undertake exploration of the widest possible range of solutions that we will ever begin to address the tough economic problems that affect our nation.

Canada has a rightful place as a leader among the nations of the world in the 21st century. Through the kind of consultation process the Minister of Finance has just begun we will not only solve our own problems successfully but we will also provide a model for other countries to emulate. The Minister of Finance has given all of us a great opportunity to work together and let our voices be heard, let our ideas be tested, let our vision of Canada meld with the rest to form the Canada we all want.