An Alberta LAC recommended that the processing of applications be simplified. Changes which should result in a shorter time lapse between submission and approval have been made.

4. While the Local Advisory Council process is under review, no specific changes are at present being considered.

5. A meeting of Local Advisory Council Chairpersons is not planned at the present time.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The question enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary has been answered. Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed from Wednesday, February 24, consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):

That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

Mr. George Minaker (Winnipeg—St. James): Madam Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure for me to take part in the debate today. As your Honour may be aware, last evening I spent about four minutes talking about the amendment that was before the House. I would like to thank my colleague, the Whip of my Party, for allowing me to participate to the fullest in this debate on the Budget. I say that because of the fact that the Budget presented by my colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), on February 10 shows that the finances of Canada are now under control. This is something which has been long overdue. For many years the finances of Canada were not under control.

I would like to remind Hon. Members what the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said on March 10, 1984, when he was the Leader of the Opposition. I want to quote his words because they set out the formula that has been used by our Government since 1984 to bring our finances back under control. He said, "We are going to create a new economic environment in Canada by making it clear for everybody that it is the private sector, not the state, that is the driving force of the economy".

That is the formula that has been used by our Government since we took office in 1984. It has been the unleashing of the entrepreneurial spirit that has seen our economy grow at record rates. An unprecedented number of jobs have been created. Some two-thirds of the 1,150,000 jobs that were created since we took office are above average in terms of pay. They are technical jobs. We can see that the quality of job creation is quite positive.

Just how have these jobs been created? Unlike the previous Liberal administration, we have put policies in place to let the private sector flourish. When was the last time you heard the term "make work project", Madam Speaker? I suspect it was probably before the last election.

The Liberals borrowed money to hire some people who were not receiving UI benefits. They would put them into a temporary work situation until they qualified for unemployment insurance benefits, at which time they would collect benefits under that program. It was a cruel and vicious circle inflicted upon the dignity of thousands of Canadians. That was the policy of the former Liberal Government when it came to job creation.

We believe in working with the private sector, not against it. An excellent case in point is the Canadian Jobs Strategy. It is a highly successful program designed to give individuals the necessary tools and skills to play an important part in our economy and our way of life. It gives people hope and a future. It does not just throw money at problems as the Liberals used to do.

How have we aroused the entrepreneurial spirit in Canada again? How have we revived it? It was done through four different policy objectives as laid out by our Government. The first objective was reform of the regulatory system; the second one was reform of the tax system; and the third was securing and enhancing access to markets outside of Canada, both through the GATT and also through the free trade agreement that is presently before us. Finally, we have controlled Government finances to reduce the deficit and the debt.

• (1120)

I wish to highlight some of the reforms of the regulatory system. Basically, it is setting up a fair set of rules in order that businesses have confidence in our country and in our Government and will invest money to create jobs. As we all know, in 1984 business confidence was very low. People did not know when they invested the money in our country whether the laws would change tomorrow or the next day and they would be left with debts or taxes that they could not handle.

As mentioned by the Minister of Finance on February 10, we stabilized the regulatory system by deregulating the energy and transportation sectors. We opened up financial markets to global opportunities and stimulated competition and financial services. We modernized business framework legislation dealing with competition, policy, copyright and patents providing better protection for the public interest. We privatized Crown corporations to reduce Government involvement and interference in the market-place. Furthermore, we