

Supply

The economist can, of course, give us the facts. That is his job. He is a good cartographer, but a bad pilot. There were plenty of crises in the nineteenth century, when cold-blooded economic fact would have been the end of us if there had not been some vision to interpret it.

The vision to interpret, so that we can have a country that is meaningful from a cultural perspective and can be identified on the world's map, is cut when the Department of Communications is losing \$1.8 million; Canada Council, \$230,000—it is death by attrition; CBC, \$400,000; Telefilm, \$210,000; CRTC, \$290,000; National Archives, \$590,000—that is a disgrace; National Arts Centre, \$150,000; National Film Board, \$470,000; National Library, \$550,000; National Gallery, \$530,000; Museums of Science and Technology, \$210,000; Canadian Museum of Nature, \$260,000; Canadian Museum of Civilization, \$540,000.

There are additional figures I would have been happy to give. If we want a country that is sovereign, that has cultural identity, that differentiates itself from the world marketplace, that has a reason for existence, then arts and culture and the role this creative intellect brings to our society are fundamental. We better start putting it first. It is a very important economic lever as well as a cultural expression of our people. It is the heart, soul and mind. It expresses who we are and why we exist.

We have problems as a nation. There are differences linguistically and differences culturally. We have the strength of Canada and its diversity. That is the unity of Canada. That diversity is expressed culturally in a variety of ways. It is the food we eat. It is the films we see. It is the way we entertain ourselves. It is the way we play. It is the way we have fun.

I ask members to come to Montreal and I will show them a city that is as culturally diverse as any city in this country. Its people know how to have fun and play together as neighbours, whatever the language. In my riding they speak 36 languages, besides the official English and French. They are proud to speak both.

[Translation]

It is a pleasure to live in Quebec and in Montreal. Come and participate. Let us keep this country and prosper together.

[English]

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Madam Speaker, I am going to try to pick up where my colleague left off in a brilliant and articulate way.

We are discussing tonight a package of estimates, a package of financial expenditures by the national government that total \$160 billion for the current fiscal year 1992-93. Those are big numbers for most Canadians. It becomes difficult to understand how large a pool of financial capital that really is when we begin to think of our finances back home.

The Constitution is clearly on the national agenda. Canadians from coast to coast to coast want that national unity dossier closed and closed successfully. At the same time people are constitutionally fatigued in part because it is a natural phenomenon that they feel it has become too much of a national pastime to discuss our Constitution. More important, they are fatigued out of a sense of frustration that the leadership at all levels, but starting here in Parliament in Ottawa, has not focused on the state of our economy to the degree they would expect.

Some of them are looking at their television sets this evening. They are probably in their living rooms thinking and asking themselves how much of this \$160 billion expenditure package is being utilized to help the country get itself out of this economic malaise that unfortunately has gripped this nation for far too long. The average resident in my riding of York West wants to know the bang economically that we are getting from their bucks.

I was reading the result of a poll that compared a poll by the same pollster in 1982, 10 years ago, which essentially asked Canadians: "How hopeful are you for the Canadian future? How hopeful are you for your own family? What is the satisfaction level that you feel in terms of your place in the Canadian society?"

• (1950)

It was quite telling to notice how much those levels have dropped dramatically since 1982 in terms of their own personal hope and the hope they attach to the country. I do not wish to be negative for the sake of being negative or to be negative because we happen to be temporarily on this side of House. I refer to those statistics because they are basically cemented to the economics of the day. Many Canadians are disillusioned.