

The Budget

Would the member tell us why the government did not do more about promoting research and development and giving the industrial community of Canada and research institutions a little more spurring on? Surely this would bring dividends back. It is an investment rather than a spending of money.

Mr. Redway: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his observations and his comments.

Unfortunately in my view the approach that he has taken is a typical opposition approach. I think the time has come for all of us to try to get together and, as the hon. member who spoke before me said, be more co-operative in this House. We should work together for the benefit of Canada and all Canadians.

It is not just a question of more, more, more or oppose everything that is said; it is a question of let us try to get the problems of the country dealt with and dealt with properly.

I know the hon. member was listening to me very carefully during Question Period on February 25, prior to the budget, when in fact I spoke on this issue of small businesses and the difficulty they have in receiving financing. I talked about the role the Federal Business Development Bank should be playing in that process.

I just go on to quote the balance of my comments that day. I said that unfortunately the policies of our lender of last resort, the Federal Business Development Bank, are no different from those of the chartered banks.

If we are ever going to get the economy going again or even save what we still have, the banks will not help. If the banks will not help, then the Federal Business Development Bank must lighten up its lending policies.

Mrs. Louise Feltham (Wild Rose): Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to rise in this House today to participate in the 1992 budget debate.

This budget demonstrates that a prudent, consistent, fiscally responsible course of action is the road to economic recovery and growth.

Since being elected as the member for Wild Rose in 1988 I have spent a great deal of time consulting with my constituents about the affairs of government. They have

expressed a desire for government to be responsible and responsive.

All Canadians, especially in these tough economic times, are familiar with the difficulties in balancing a budget, whether it is personal or business. I believe this budget provides realistic and lasting solutions that will ensure our economic recovery.

Canadians are adamant in their desire for an effective and efficient government. They want a government that does not duplicate or overlap services. They want a government that is dedicated to the elimination of the public debt. The Minister of Finance, through this budget, has assured Canadians that this government is on the right track.

This budget addresses spending cuts, reorganization and restraint throughout the government. It starts with the elimination, consolidation or privatization of 46 agencies, boards, commissions, corporations and advisory bodies. It cuts non-wage operating budgets in government departments by 3 per cent, reduces international travel and the eliminates first-class travel for members of Parliament, senators and senior public servants. Last fall it put a freeze on ministerial, parliamentary and public service pay to help curtail spending.

These steps will curb government spending and enable this government to reduce the deficit by \$4 billion in the 1992-93 fiscal year and a further \$5 billion in the 1993-94 year.

This is a budget prepared for the people of Canada. It is a budget about people, programs and services. The Minister of Finance spoke in his budget speech about an expenditure control plan that was introduced in the 1990 budget. His remarks were to reassure Canadians that this government would not be cutting services to Canadians. Instead, government departments would be offering more efficient service.

The control plan would be left in place, but it would continue to look after the highest priority programs. These areas include major social transfers such as elderly benefits, family benefits, veterans allowances and pensions, unemployment insurance benefits and certain transfers to provinces, equalization and Canada Assistance Plan transfers to equalization receiving provinces.