

• (1355)

The Minister of Finance has said very clearly that government cannot and should not do everything. We too want—

An hon. member: He does not do anything.

An hon. member: They do nothing except spend money.

Mr. Simmons: Can I get that in writing? He says the government does not do anything. He could have fooled me when I heard his leader yesterday in the House of Commons. I thought he was saying we are doing all kinds of terrible things. Get together, guys. I do not want a fight, especially on Valentine's Day. Let us not have a fight among the kissing cousins in the same caucus. He says we do nothing and the other member says we do a lot. Which is it?

Mr. Abbott: A lot of nothing.

Mr. Simmons: The hon. member needs a new writer.

The government was elected to bring the people of Canada leaner, smarter and more efficient government. Even my friend from Elk Island believes that. We were not mandated to wholly eviscerate government.

Mr. White (Fraser Valley West): What does that mean?

Mr. Simmons: As soon as I find out, I will let the member know.

We were not elected to eviscerate, to cut out the you know what of government without regard to the important job it must and can fulfil both today and in the longer term.

The difficulty if we operate from the premise that we do not need a government, as this crowd obviously does, is we have difficulty seeing the wisdom in anything the government does. I happen to believe we need some government.

Mr. Abbott: Some.

Mr. Simmons: Yes, some government and some good government. I say to my friend that we not only have some government, we have good government. The program review we are undertaking is one of the ways in which the government is bringing about smaller, efficient, effective government.

In the last budget the government launched a review of each and every program. Departments were asked to justify programs and activities on the basis of several tests.

The Speaker: It being 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 30(5), the House will now proceed to Statements by Members, pursuant to Standing Order 31.

S. O. 31

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

[English]

TOUGHLOVE

Mr. Geoff Regan (Halifax West, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, today in my riding of Halifax West many volunteers are out doing fundraising efforts for TOUGHLOVE Canada, a non-profit organization that counsels families in the use of non-violent discipline to resolve behavioural problems with troubled teenagers.

Many doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, parents, teachers and police in my riding have attested to the success of this program in dealing with these troubled teenagers. They have used these methods to change the behaviour of these troubled teenagers and create happier, healthier families.

Halifax West is the home of the national headquarters of TOUGHLOVE Canada. I want to wish these volunteers well in their worthwhile efforts.

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[Translation]

MEMBER FOR SAINT-HENRI—WESTMOUNT

Mr. Jean-Paul Marchand (Québec-Est, BQ): "What a victory", Mr. Speaker. "What a victory!" These were the words of Lucienne Robillard, a former minister in the Bourassa government, on being elected as member for Saint-Henri—Westmount in a by-election in which only 30 per cent of registered voters turned out. What a victory indeed.

It reflects little glory on Mrs. Robillard, who systematically refused to take part in any debate during the campaign. For her, the by-election was a mere formality, somewhat like being appointed to the Senate by the Prime Minister. Let us hope she knows which door is which when she comes to Ottawa.

She will have to explain statements she made earlier as the Quebec minister for health and education, when she fought against federal interference in these sectors. Does she no longer stand by these statements, which are at odds with the present federal government's approach to social program reform?

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[English]

DEPOSIT INSURANCE

Mrs. Daphne Jennings (Mission—Coquitlam, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I monitored the work of the Senate committee which studied deposit insurance in the collapse of Confederation Life.

In commenting on the white paper tabled on February 9 by the Secretary of State for International Financial Institutions, I