

Adjusted federal-provincial funding arrangements to ensure that massive cuts to health and education were imposed upon the citizens of our province again was a strategy begun by the Liberal governments in the 1970s and 1980s.

We have increased deficits, increased taxes, reduced services, increased consumer and business bankruptcies and increased problems in the farm community. Yet the Prime Minister says, stay the course.

We know these are not easy issues with easy solutions. However this government wants to continue with a process which has given us such disastrous results. At least this government does have a plan, unlike the Liberals who have no plan at all. We may not agree with the government's plan but at least it speaks out with some plan.

New Democrats have a plan which puts people first. That is all that I ask, that we have an economic system and a government which when making economic decisions puts people first instead of putting people last.

**Mr. Jack Shields (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize that the government has set out a concrete vision and plan of action to promote economic growth and bring public finances under strong control.

We are continuing to follow that plan. Both the International Monetary Fund and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development strongly support the structural framework our government has put in place. In its most recent forecast, the OECD predicted that Canada will lead the G-7 nations in growth in both 1993 and 1994.

Canada has only recently emerged from a prolonged world-wide recession which shook, and in many instances continues to shake, the economies of the world's leading industrial nations. The recession was heightened by industrial restructuring, trade liberalization and accelerating technological changes which are changing forever the methods by which economic success can be achieved. Canada is not immune to these changes.

To meet the challenges of globalization, it is imperative that we raise our level of economic productivity. To do so, we must continue to invest in modern capital, new technologies and worker skills. It means continuing to

implement policies which help to create a stable macroeconomic environment which is conducive to productivity enhancing investment.

For example, the low inflation rate we currently enjoy is a product, among other things, of a disciplined monetary policy and fiscal restraint. It has resulted in lower interest rates and is expanding opportunities for people to work, invest and innovate. We must also continue our efforts to bring our national finances under strong control.

Canada's experience has clearly demonstrated that higher spending and greater deficits will not create lasting jobs. They lead only to higher interest rates in the short term and higher taxes down the road. We remain committed to reversing the debt legacy left to us by the previous government.

Accordingly we will continue to invest in fiscally prudent policies. Both the February 1992 budget and the recent economic statement reflected our commitment to contain pressures on the deficit through spending restraint and spending reallocation.

Only by tightly controlling government expenditures can we expect to establish an economic climate that supports and rewards productive investment. However I want to assure this House—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** I am sorry, but the hon. member's time has expired.

#### TRANSPORTATION

**Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to question the government concerning a query I raised in the House of Commons some time ago on the Gemini workers in Winnipeg.

It is my contention that the government really has no sound approach to transportation. It has no logical, well laid out transportation policy. We all know that the airlines are in crisis and our rail industry is having serious difficulties as well.

My question was about those 800 Air Canada Gemini workers mostly in Winnipeg whose high-tech well-paying jobs were being threatened by the proposed merger at the time. This has not really been resolved and these people continue to wonder what is going to happen to them.