

to mention the chief government Whip's statement about the budget being a disgrace.

I wonder if he would agree with a point I made in my speech on the budget the other day. I said the government is engaged in a bit of bookkeeping fraud with the public by deferring the payment of \$600 million-odd in GST payments into the next financial year and claiming thereby to reduce the deficit. If he were a chartered accountant he would not recommend such a course to any of his clients.

Mr. McDermid: It is not a fraud at all and the hon. member knows full well that it is not designed to reduce the budget by lumping payments twice yearly. It is designed to cut back on the cost of administering the program.

The hon. member is criticizing a government that is trying to streamline the administration to get its costs of operating the government down. The same money is going to be spent on those people who are receiving GST rebates.

I might add that when the Liberals were in power they had a hidden manufacturers' sales tax which we inherited. The Liberals never gave one penny of rebate to the low income people in this country. The former minister of finance, now Minister of Industry, Science and Technology was the first to bring in a tax credit for low income people because of the sales tax. The Liberals never did it.

Hon. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, we have a unique situation in the House today because we have a motion put by an opposition member that we agree with the chief government Whip. The chief government Whip has just described the government's budget as a disgrace. He is a highly respected member of the House, a highly respected Albertan and in Calgary on Friday he said that this budget is a disgrace.

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I want to associate my party with the comments of the chief government Whip as well. I hope the Conservatives will get up with us later today and vote in accordance with what the chief government Whip has said in describing this budget as a disgrace.

It is a disgrace for many reasons. The chief government Whip is right. The budget tabled by the Minister of Finance does not have a plan. It does not have a vision about where this country is going to go. That is why this budget is a disgrace.

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The Conservative government has pretty well destroyed this country economically if we look at the facts. Let us look at the facts here for a few minutes.

First of all we now have tens of thousands of people lined up at food banks every day because of what this government has done to our country's economy. Second, we have an unemployment rate in Canada of 11 per cent. Over 1.5 million Canadians are out of work. Another one million Canadians are underemployed. Many Canadians are on welfare because of the policies of the government across the way. The Whip is right. This budget is a disgrace.

Many farmers today are being forced off the land because the government made a promise for more farm aid and it has not fulfilled that promise to western farmers.

The government brought in a GST which has slowed down the economy and thrown people out of work. It brought in the free trade agreement that sold out our country, our sovereignty and our independence to make decisions in this country. The chief government Whip is right. This budget is a disgrace. It does not have a plan and it does not have a vision.

The last reason this budget is a disgrace, which is not something Conservatives like to talk about very much, is the whole question of the debt. We are now the most indebted country in the industrialized world.

Mr. McDermid: You have to include provincial debts.

Mr. Nystrom: Provincial debts as well.

Under the Conservative Party the debt has gone from \$160 billion in 1984 to \$458.6 billion today and the projections for the fiscal year 1993-94 are for \$491.2 billion.

Those members are talking about fiscal responsibility and fiscal and monetary policy. That is like asking a chicken to vote for Colonel Saunders. There has never been a government in this country that has had such a sad and pathetic record in terms of managing our economy as the Conservative Party.

Maybe we should learn from history. Who brought us the Great Depression in the 1930s but the Conservative Party and Prime Minister Bennett? My grandfathers used to talk about the Bennett buggy in those days. They would take the motor out of the car, hitch up some poles to the front of it, put a horse in front and drive around. That is the legacy of the Conservative Party of the 1930s