

[Translation]

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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[English]

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Paul Dick (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill C-52, an Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, without amendments.

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THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received as follows:

Government House,
Ottawa,

May 29, 1985

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Gérard V. J. La Forest, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 29th day of May, 1985, at 4.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to a certain Bill.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
A. P. Smyth,
Deputy Secretary
to the Governor General

The Budget—Mr. Nielsen

● (1530)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed from Monday, May 27, consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government; and the amendment of Mr. Johnston (p. 5043).

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Where did everyone go?

Mr. Nielsen: I can't see anyone. Oh, yes, there are two Hon. Members behind my hon. friend over there.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Where did everyone go?

Mr. Nielsen: I can't see anyone.

I rise to intervene in this debate, Mr. Speaker, in connection with a process in which my ministerial colleagues and I have been involved since last autumn. I speak, of course, of the program review, so I am participating in that regard wearing the hat of chairman of that task force.

The time and the thoughtful consideration given to the program review by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret) and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie), who sit with me on that committee, is a measure of the commitment of this Government, the depth of that commitment, and the priority being given to improving both the management of government programs and service to the public, as well as to improving the sense of order generally throughout the Government. This mission is one that we accepted readily and that has been at the forefront of our thoughts for several months with a very high degree of determination and insistence upon those objectives.

The assignment with which the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) mandated us last September is a measure as well, Sir, of the commitment to ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of the Public Service for many years to come. The people of this country, it is our belief, have a right to expect a Public Service the equal of any. People from Port Alberni to Chicoutimi and Placentia Bay are entitled to expect their Public Service to function without fear of favour, liberated entirely from any concessions whatsoever to the past. A contemporary Public Service should be free from the yoke of compromises fashioned to fit expediencies that no longer apply.

A revamped approach to management of the Government was long, long overdue. We in government knew that as private citizens, as businessmen, as farmers, and as members of communities which struggled to meet the challenges raised