

*The Budget—Mr. Ravis*

initiatives have been announced in the past 18 months than were in the previous 10 years of Government.

I would like to know in what areas the Hon. Member would have increased spending, by how much, and where those funds should have come from. Any money that is spent today must be taken from other programs.

**Mr. Hovdebo:** Mr. Speaker, there are two areas in which it will not cost the Government to help farmers survive. The first is that of parity pricing. We could ask the people of Canada to pay a little more for Canadian products. The second area is the cost of inputs, which are out of hand. The Saskatchewan Conservative Government is looking into the costs of inputs. I know from my own experience that products such as the chemical treflan are selling for \$140 in the United States and \$210 in Canada. The patent on treflan expired three years ago.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I regret that the Hon. Member's time has expired. This is a great debate, but we will have to carry on.

**Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, I doubt that I can complete my 20-minute speech in the remaining 15 or 16 minutes, but I will commence. It is with great pleasure that I rise today in the House to participate in the budget debate. For the record, I heartily congratulate the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) for staying the course toward cutting our deficit and bringing about economic prosperity in the country.

I have been travelling across the country, as I am sure many Members of Parliament have done since the introduction of the Budget. I returned to the House of Commons with a strong feeling of determination. The majority of the people across the country are saying that the Budget is tough medicine but it is long overdue. Many people do not really want to pay more taxes, but feel that if we do not do something about these problems now we will have a very tough future.

As a new Member of Parliament in the 33rd Parliament I learned that my constituents in Saskatoon East wanted more jobs, and that is one of the things which we continue to hear a lot about. I am pleased that we have made some headway in that direction, and indications are that we will continue to make excellent progress. My constituents wanted the Government to be managed more like they manage their households. People have a certain amount of money with which to budget in their households or small businesses, and they want the Government in Ottawa to manage within those same restraints. My constituents were looking for leadership, for someone who would set the course and stay on it. People want to have a goal set and then to move toward it. I will say a little more about that in a few minutes.

People wanted accountability to those who are paying the bills. They were tired of the blank-cheque approach taken by Ottawa. They wanted fair and honest consultation with the provinces, particularly on budgetary affairs, rather than a hidden agenda. They also wanted value for tax money collected. The recent decrease in expenditures by 70 per cent is a strong response to that. Finally, they wanted a Government

which respected the people who elected it, truth about our finances, and respect for the tax dollar.

In a nutshell, Mr. Speaker, the people of Canada did not want to have the wool pulled over their eyes. I suggest that this Budget is a continuation of that process which was started in November of 1984 and continued through the May Budget of 1985. The Government is calling things as they are in the country and facing up to the facts.

The Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) said last weekend that most people do not like the Budget. I would like to return to the House of Commons after the next election, not on a record of throwing money away, as has been done in the past, but on a record of responsible fiscal management of our money, the public service, and all the Crown agencies for which we have responsibility.

I would like to give you an historical perspective as to why Canada has this massive deficit. The red flags did not appear only a couple of years ago. They were there long before the present Government took power. The Glassco Royal Commission in the early 1960s began ringing the alarms about financial management by the federal Government. The commission reached inescapable conclusions of Government waste and inefficiency in the federal Government.

In 1976 the Auditor General, J. J. Macdonell, stated in his annual report that the Government had lost or was close to losing control of the public purse. Warnings were everywhere that a financial crisis was developing. While the Lambert Commission resulted in some reforms, the political will to quit spending taxpayers' money as if there was no tomorrow was still missing. In fact, every new idea was dealt with by spending millions of dollars. You name it, and the previous Government bought it or made it into a Crown corporation. I must say that that was great for those people who got on the bandwagon, but it was an unbearable burden for the taxpayers of Canada who had to pay the bills and face the mounting debt.

I would like to touch on the issue of Government control, particularly of Crown corporations. I think the previous Government threw too much money at problems which arose in those days. Twenty years ago there were only 28 Crown corporations in the country, and by 1984 the Liberals had created over 300 additional Crown interests. That means 300 bureaucracies, hundreds of personnel and accounting functions, communication staff, administrators and so on.

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Back in the 1970s loan guarantees became the order of the day, for example, those given to de Havilland, Canadair, some trucking companies, hotels, bicycle and computer companies. What happened to those loan guarantees? We inherited them. We are now in the position of having to deal with them, and I will talk a little later about the disposal of some of those Crown corporations which are no longer performing a worthwhile function in this Government. As the Auditor-General stated in 1976, it was a Government out of control.