

department which the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Industry found. It consisted of about four or five people.

**Mr. Andras:** He immediately moved into de Cotret's office and created one heck of a problem.

**Mr. Kempling:** That is what the former government had put before the people of Canada and the small business sector. That is what John Bulloch and all other people who present the case for small business had put forward as the department of Minister of State for Small Businesses and Industry. It was half a dozen people and nothing else. In fact the only thing he had within the department was the Small Businesses Loans Act. Is that right?

**Mr. Wilson:** Yes.

**Mr. Kempling:** That is all there was to it. We sat on the other side and asked the government on this side questions about what was being done with small business. The two or three ministers the previous government had would stand up and say things, but they had nothing there whatsoever. It was a sham, a worse sham than the motion put forward today.

One thing this minister will not do is play small business against big business, and big business against small business. That is what I have heard coming from the other side quite often. They play one against the other, and divide them off. They will not get that from this minister. What did we find when we came into power? We found a current account deficit of \$7 billion. We found a manufacturing products deficit of \$12 billion. We found a budget deficit of \$11 billion. We found inflation approaching double digit levels. We found the Canadian dollar at 15 cents. We found that billions of dollars had been spent in foreign exchange reserves to keep it there.

**Mr. Pepin:** Fifteen cents?

**Mr. Kempling:** It had dropped 15 cents, to 85 cents.

**Mr. Pepin:** That is better.

**Mr. Kempling:** I thank the hon. member for pointing out my error. It had dropped to 85 cents, it had dropped 15 cents. I hope that is recorded clearly. We found nearly one million people unemployed. In fact, as the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Stevens) said, "The cupboard was bare". Not only was it bare, it was garroted, gutted, and bled dry.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Somebody even sold the hinges.

**Mr. Kempling:** That is right. It was bled dry by a bunch of economic bandits who have the audacity to come into the House today and criticize the efforts we have put forward in six months. I say that is brass, just plain brass. They should hide their heads in shame.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame, shame!

**Mr. Kempling:** I know another one or two members want to speak, so I will yield the floor to them shortly because I am a

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parliamentarian and I respect their rights. But I should like to say that we have three ministers involved in our trade policy.

**Mr. Andras:** The timid trio of trade.

**Mr. Kempling:** Let me tell the hon. member that the best thing that ever happened to the Senate of Canada was to have three ministers there.

**Mr. Andras:** Does the Senate think so?

**Mr. Kempling:** I think it is the most wonderful thing that ever happened to that institution, because the place has come alive, and they are doing something.

We recognize the immensities of the problems of trade and industry, and we split them apart. In our view the department was too big. It required more ministers to look after it and give it individual attention. Particularly I am proud of my colleague, the Minister of State for International Trade (Mr. Wilson). He has a good commercial background and a great reputation in the business community. I know he will be successful. He put in place trade policies and other initiatives which I know generally will increase the trade of our country as we go down the road. We have had some tough things to do in the short time we have been in government. We have more tough things to do in the budget which will come down on December 11. I believe we are up to it. I believe Canadians are ready for tough medicine. I think they will take it.

If members opposite in the official opposition had had the courage to face reality, perhaps they would still be in government today. The fact is that they just refused to face reality. Either they did not have the will or they did not want to look reality straight in the eye and see what we were facing. The result was that on May 22 Canadians said, "No more, you are out. We will give these other people a try". I think we deserve a try. I look at the talent in our benches and I am proud of it. Given half a chance, I am convinced that we can turn the country around and point it in the direction which it should be going.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Translation]

**Mr. Bernard Loiselle (Verchères):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with great pleasure and attention to the previous speaker, the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Industry (Mr. Huntington). He talked about the situation he found after his party came to power on May 22, and of course he quoted a few figures which may not be very favourable. However, he forgot to talk about something which was very positive, our trade surplus. Since the present government had been gloomy for 16 years when we were in power, as soon as it saw this trade surplus, it tried to paint everything black and attacked the issue of Jerusalem because Canada had to go from a surplus to a deficit.

Everything goes by threes in this government, even though the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) speaks about more