

worker adjustment to technical change and expanding apprenticeship training.

In addition to the National Training Program, there have been efforts to handle disadvantaged groups. Time prohibits me from discussing each and every one of these initiatives but I would like to mention the name of a few: the Affirmative Action Program; special training incentives for Natives; women in non-traditional occupations; women's employment program; and a program for the employment disadvantaged.

As the motion reads, it is absolutely clear that we did not keep our commitment in the Throne Speech in regard to employment. I think it is absolute nonsense, Mr. Speaker.

Let us take the bull by the tail and examine one commitment that we have certainly been unable to keep. I would like to talk about the deficit. The Throne Speech stated:

It is the intention of my Ministers to continue the policies of expenditure restraint and improved Government administration . . .

My Government will reduce the federal deficit in a planned and orderly manner, but not to the exclusion of other objectives—

Now, Mr. Speaker, you may wonder why I raise the question of the deficit. I raise it because I want to deal with this motion and this issue in a fair and objective way.

What has the Government done to restrain spending and improve administration? Restraint and administrative reform are not new buzz words to this Government. To begin with, the Government has implemented and expanded the policy and expenditure management system. Under this system, expenditures are broken down by envelopes. The envelope system helps to ensure that Ministers will trade off one priority over another and will be continually re-evaluating existing programs to find funds for new initiatives.

Second, it was a Liberal Government that established a Comptroller General's Office to act as the Government's internal watchdog on spending. In 1975 the Government announced that it would hold Government expenditures to the growth in the GNP. Over the period between 1975 and 1980, the Government was successful in meeting this goal and federal expenditures as a percentage of GNP actually fell.

Let us examine more recent history. In 1982 the Government was faced with the most serious recession since the great Depression. At this time we are forced to look into our hearts and ask what are fundamental Liberal goals and beliefs. Were we to use the approach used in so many other nations— withstand the recession on the backs of the poor? Would we allow our newspapers to have headlines of increasing infant mortality due to maternal malnutrition? There were stories to that effect in the United States. No, we would not do that. This may be a philosophically Conservative option, this may be supply side politics, but this is not a Liberal approach. So in 1982 we broke our commitment to lower the deficit.

Does this mean we forgot about the deficit? No. The Government recognized that there was a lack of funds. In a

recession, people lack funds to pay taxes; people need help to survive. Therefore we developed a policy of helping those most in need and maintaining the social net of medicare, social assistance and Unemployment Insurance. More money was needed for social assistance and more money was needed for job creation. A greater effort was needed to get industry back on track in the international marketplace. How was Government to respond? We believe that Government should respond by leading, so we introduced the six and five program.

Mr. Speaker, if you now call it one o'clock, I will talk about the six and five program at two o'clock.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

AIR CANADA

RESERVATION OF SMOKING AND NON-SMOKING SECTIONS IN AIRPLANES

Mr. Henri Tousignant (Témiscamingue): Madam Speaker, we ought to rejoice and take great pride in the considerable progress we have made recently in the fields of science and technology. Having invested time and money, Air Canada has just made a discovery which will cause a great stir or which, at least, should ensure the unrivalled comfort of its non-smoking passengers.

As a result of that discovery, Madam Speaker, non-smokers are assigned seats in two groups in the front and rear of the aircraft, the middle section being reserved for smokers, namely those who have maintained their inalienable right to asphyxiate their neighbours with impunity. This is done by placing a small sign at each end of the section assigned to that unscrupulous group. As if by magic, the smoke stops right there and people in the next row can breathe fresh air. It is an inspired idea, as if smoke should be more intelligent than human beings.

In primitive times, cannibalism was a way of life and many people, quite unwillingly, turned out to be the main course during festivities and social dos. Contemporary cannibalism has nothing to do with the fear of being eaten, but rather—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.