

*Private Members' Business*

er it is in Quebec City or in Ottawa, they always end up paying the bill.

So what other issues or reasons could have motivated the minister to present this bill or have it passed? It is simply to lower the deficit. Once again, the poorest people in society are being made to bear the burden of the blunders committed previously by all levels of government.

We all know that the government could have tried to save money quite differently. The three economists of the Université du Québec à Montréal mention one way, which I will quote here: "There was no shortage of ways to reduce federal spending besides the budget for unemployment insurance." The government could simply have opened the last few annual reports of the Auditor General of Canada—I should have brought them with me, they are very thick—in fact, any report at any page. It would have found enough cuts to make without once again going after the unemployed.

Under the circumstances, we have no choice but to say that the government did not do its job properly. In fact, I should rephrase that comment because it is not strong enough. Once again, the Liberals merely pursued the previous government's policy, a policy which they vehemently criticized when they sat on this side and which allows the rich to get richer, while penalizing the poor.

The report released by the National Council of Welfare clearly showed the way to go. Our priority should be to develop tax and economic policies which will lead to a reduction in the number of unemployed people. The best way to reduce dependency on welfare or unemployment insurance is to ensure full employment. But this is clearly not being done.

People in my riding are fed up, and so are ordinary citizens in Quebec and in Canada. They are fed up with seeing their purchasing power being eroded day after day. They are fed up with seeing the deficit still growing after being told for years that it will diminish. Our only perspective is a disastrous deficit of \$500 billion. And we are told that, for sure, it will climb to \$600 billion in the next three years. People are fed up with seeing successive governments resort to the same old solutions which have already proven to be costly, ineffective and illogical.

Last October, voters in Quebec realized of course that they should not support those who resort to these old solutions which have the direct effect of ruining the country. Soon, when the next provincial election is held, Quebecers will again display the same wisdom. It may be that, in the not too distant future, we will achieve the ultimate goal of this process and find the true solutions for us Quebecers by becoming a sovereign state which will eliminate the useless spending, wasting of public money and overlapping of systems which our governments have been tolerating for too long and which they ironically refer to as profitable federalism.

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu):** It being 1.30 p.m., pursuant to order made earlier this day it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith the question on the motion of Mr. Milliken.

Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu):** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu):** All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

**Some hon. members:** Yea.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu):** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. members:** Nay.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu):** In my opinion the yeas have it.

*And more than five members having risen:*

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu):** Pursuant to order made earlier this day the recorded division on the motion will take place on Tuesday at 5.30 p.m.

[Translation]

It being 1.30 p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[Translation]

### CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

**Mr. Michel Gauthier (Roberval) moved**

That in the opinion of this House, the government should approach Canadian National Railways and have it authorize the privatization of the Franquet—Chapais trunk line for a nominal sum and ensure the maintenance and consolidation of the CRAN subdivision in the riding of Roberval, in order to promote mining and forestry development in the region.

He said: Madam Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to put this motion before the House so that it can be debated by members of Parliament, because in my riding of Roberval, and especially in the Chibougamau—Chapais area where mining development is vitally important, rail service is to be abandoned pretty soon.