

including and especially senior citizens, know perfectly well that our social programs have been put at risk as a result of the national debt, and that the only way to get out of this situation is by creating jobs.

I think the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie should realize that among the 159,000 jobs created in only two months, 60,000 were created in Quebec. That is the best news Quebec has had in ten years, and senior citizens are well aware of that.

[English]

Ms. Copps: Ça c'est mentant.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Wilson: Get out of here, baby.

MANITOBA LEGISLATURE RESOLUTION

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. While he is the Minister for all of Canada, he is also a Manitoban. He knows that yesterday a unanimous resolution was passed by the Legislation of that province calling for the full indexation of old age pensions for seniors, and talking about the profoundly negative effect the federal Government's program of deindexation will have on old age pensioners. Will he join other Manitobans and make sure that the Government reverses its position?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the resolution and have had discussions about it. The Hon. Member knows that he and I have said in the House many times that we are going to monitor the situation. It is not even in effect, only to come into effect on January 1 next. Therefore, the situation remains the same.

I also tell him that the Manitoba Legislature, as is any other legislature, is an independent parliamentary body. They can pass their resolutions and we can accept them and examine them, as with other representations.

REQUEST FOR FULL INDEXATION

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. He made a promise during the election campaign. He has now heard from the Province of Manitoba and the Province of Ontario. He has heard from seniors and young people right across the country.

The reason he has given the House is that the deficit is a problem. Will he not admit that when the Liberals were in Government, the Conservative Party, just as the New Democrats, said that the deficit would be higher than it actually turned out to be? Would he not admit that and reinstate that pension for the old people?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the difference is that the February figures provided by the

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former Government provided a large deficit plus a trend line which it said was going down. However, when we came into office we discovered that the trend line was going up.

I ask my hon. friend to reflect upon what that does. For example, if we go from 10 cents on the dollar to 33 cents on the dollar, and ultimately to 40 cents and 50 cents on every dollar of government revenue to pay the interest on the debt, that puts the capacity of the Government of Canada to maintain these social programs in peril.

It is because we want to maintain their integrity, and to enhance them at the earliest possible time, that we are taking measures which are painful for all Canadians. However, they are designed to be helpful in creating the kind of durable job creation that throws off tax dollars and the new wealth that will allow us to sustain and enhance those social programs, particularly for the elderly.

I think the news this morning of the creation of 271,000 new jobs in Canada should be cause for rejoicing by the Hon. Member.

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EMPLOYMENT

INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT LEVELS—ANALYSIS OF NEW JOBS

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. There is good news from Statistics Canada today because 159,000 new jobs have been created in the last two months. We have not heard a question from the Liberals or the New Democratic Party about this situation. They do not want to ask about that because it is good news. Therefore, let me ask the Minister if she could give us an analysis of those new jobs that have been created.

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the figures that were released this morning by Statistics Canada concerning the creation of new jobs in the last few months, and indeed since September of last year, represent the breakthrough in economic renewal right across the country.

Since September of last year 271,000 new jobs have been created as against the 94,000 jobs that had been created under the Liberal Government in the same period of the previous year. Furthermore, 131,000 fewer Canadians are unemployed as against the same period of time when unemployment went up under a Liberal Government. People have to recognize that those are the kinds of statistics which have brought about the economic breakthrough which the country is witnessing.