

*Adjournment Motion*

million unemployed. There are many areas in this country where people still live in poverty. A good example is Selkirk—Interlake represented by that Conservative Member who is so proud of the Government. He criticized government deficits. If we have to keep the deficit down, there will be no money for the native communities in his constituency who live in such deplorable housing.

● (1620)

We have to face up to the tremendous disparities in incomes and services between wealthy parts of Canada such as southern Ontario, and the rural or isolated areas where there is not only a tremendously high rate of unemployment but where services, whether it be education, health or anything else, are still deplorable and disgraceful.

**Ms. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I was very interested in my hon. colleague's comments, particularly with respect to the question of illiteracy. I know he is very concerned about those who have been unemployed because of this handicap. I wonder if he has any comments to make with respect to prevention.

I know that when the Special Committee on Child Care toured the country we heard over and over again that there are ways, involving a relatively small investment and by starting with children at the pre-school level, of preventing much of the dysfunctioning which occurs later in life. I am thinking particularly of the Head Start program which has been very successful in the U.S. Research has shown that children from disadvantaged homes, where perhaps their parents were illiterate, were helped to function much better and make much better use of school after having been involved in these enrichment programs. As a result, when they got to be teenagers there was a much lower rate of adolescent problems. They stayed in school longer, there were not as many teenage pregnancies or drug abuse. It seems to me that is an area of great importance and it would require an investment of only a small amount of money. Yet the Government seems to be looking for every means possible to delay in getting on with the child care program which should include enriched programs of this kind.

**Mr. Orlikow:** Mr. Speaker, there is no question that some other countries, such as the U.S. with its Head Start program, and Sweden, Denmark and West Germany, have had a great deal of success in overcoming problems such as illiteracy with programs designed specifically to help people in difficulty. I agree completely with the Hon. Member that one of the best things we could do would be to improve our child care system. We should have a day care system which would not only help young children begin to learn to read and write, but which would permit their parents, particularly in the single-parent families, to work or improve their education, or get training in fields with employment prospects. Of course, all these things can be and should be done but we have a Government intent on reducing the deficit and it is just not prepared to move on any of these ideas.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Questions and comments are now terminated.

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## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 66, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Scarborough West (Mr. Stackhouse)—North Atlantic Treaty Organization—Arms gap between NATO and Warsaw Pact nations; the Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson)—Amount of tax collected by Government—White Paper sales tax projection; the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway)—Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation—Shortage of affordable housing in Toronto.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government; and the amendment of Mr. Garneau (p. 12860).

**Mr. John Reimer (Kitchener):** Mr. Speaker, I count it a privilege to add a few comments to this budget debate. I would like to go through what has taken place, comparing it with where we have been in the past, and also take a look at the economic indicators as they reflect the performance of the previous Liberal Government and the present Government.

When this Government was elected to office three and a half years ago the biggest challenge facing us was to restore fiscal responsibility and then create a climate for a more dynamic, flexible, innovative and competitive economy, and to create jobs. The challenge was a large one, to say the least. The federal deficit and national debt were out of control. Between 1981 and 1984 the deficit escalated from \$14.9 billion to more than \$38.3 billion. The national debt had doubled and was growing at an average rate of 26 per cent per year. Likewise, government spending was out of control.

In the four years prior to our coming into office, government spending on programs had increased at an average annual rate of 14 per cent, far in excess of inflation and enough to double spending in about five years. If this trend had been allowed to continue, the result would have been catastrophic. The public