

The Budget

number of people to use their RRSP money for buying a house.

Unfortunately, this budget provides no leadership whatsoever and that is what Canadians are crying out for more than anything else. Perhaps the government would now consider seriously stepping aside so that real leadership may be gained and the people of Canada given a budget that they can actually live with and be given some optimism as we move towards the 21st century.

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I note my hon. colleague's suggestion that leadership should be given. I listened intently through the whole 10 minutes of my colleague's address. I did not hear one suggestion where reductions should take place.

I did not hear a criticism in specifics to the increase in government expenditures in agriculture. I know her party's policy is an over-all reduction of 15 per cent of all government expenditures instead of an increase in agriculture and instead of an increase in child benefits of some \$400 million, which she criticized. I would like to ask her what she would have cut to address that \$400 million. What would she would have reduced beyond the 15 per cent to have an increase in agriculture, an increase in the other expenditures to make up for the reduction in government income with lowering taxes. That has to be a benefit to the people of Canada.

The other thing I would ask the hon. member is if she could identify what her party would have cut and what her party would have put forward if it had the opportunity to lead.

I know her leader has turned down six invitations to appear before the Standing Committee of Finance to explain this presto magic that he is prepared to work for the Canadian public. I will sit down now, Madam Speaker, and allow the member ample time to explain the cuts that the Reform Party would put in place in old age pensions, old age security and assistance to agriculture and other economic forces in the country.

Miss Grey: Madam Speaker, without sounding facetious, I think as we look through these budget papers, I would recommend probably that the very first place the hon. Minister of Agriculture could make a very significant cut, not simply a 5 per cent cut, would be to his ministerial salary. That is to take place on April 1.

The budget also said that the government would cancel all first class travel seats for members of Parliament and senators. I understand from some of the airline companies that most of those first class seats are actually being taken out on all domestic flights.

I think that is probably a good place to start. I am not sure whether there are first class seats any more on flights back and forth to Saskatchewan. I have not seen any for a very long time on aeroplanes moving in and out of Alberta at any rate.

Those are the types of things that people in the Canadian public are looking at. He asked me about specific places where we can cut. There will be nothing in our blue book that will say there will be 15 per cent cuts across the board. This minister unfortunately is going around the country saying: "There we are. The Reform Party is going to take grocery money away of seniors. It is going to cut hospital beds" Nothing is further from the truth.

• (1900)

In areas especially with agriculture that this minister asks specifically about, we believe agricultural input costs must be lowered. We are talking about lower interest rates. I give this government credit that it has gone down somewhat. There is still a fair spread. We are looking at somehow coming up with negotiations with the GATT that we do not necessarily need to be talking about domestic agricultural policies when we are at the GATT negotiations. We are looking forward to seeing what this government is really going to do at the GATT negotiations rather than flying from Mexico over to Europe and saying: "This is how we are going to address this problem".

We believe that this federal government also specifically could get rid of many Crown corporations. Again, this has been a start in this budget. When we are still running a \$27.5 billion debt in this country, it is simply not good enough.

The Canadian public wants equality of sacrifice across the country in the agricultural sector as well as in the public sector, as well as people in the private sector. I am a teacher by trade and I know that many teachers whom I speak with would stand up in this Chamber if they were here with me and say: "I would take a cut across the board if I knew that every single Canadian, if every