

The Budget

Even though it is a step toward decentralizing or transferring the management of these programs to the provinces and territories, it is unfavourably implemented when the cash cutbacks are not coupled with compensation in the tax credit area by increasing it.

• (1605)

With this budget plan, it is inevitable that health services will be cut, if not directly this year certainly next or the year following that.

This year health services will probably feel some effect from the cuts as applied to the medical research council, a 10 per cent cut, and the patent medicine prices review board, 15 per cent cut and another 15 per cent cut to the hazardous material information review commission.

Some aspects of the mandates of these departments or services certainly contribute toward the quality of our overall health program. Reduction in the services from some of these sources is bound to influence health care services.

I have identified some areas where cuts are to be implemented. These plus other cuts in the budget are apparently insufficient to prevent the need to continue borrowing possibly large sums of money in order to operate within the budget.

A possible contributing factor is that this government's budget does not apply cuts equitably and fairly across the board, but singles out some services to cut while allowing others to actually increase. Even though the growth rate is restricted there is still an increase taking place. An example of this is the Indian health care service program in which the growth rate will be restricted to 6 per cent for 1995-96 and 3 per cent for 1996-97 and again 3 per cent in 1997-98.

We need to balance our budget as soon as possible. We need to relearn how to live within our means and not continuously borrow horrendous amounts of dollars. Once we have achieved a balanced budget we can implement a plan systematically and consistently to apply funds to our debt and reduce it.

The Canadian people are aware that we have a deficit problem as well as a debt problem. They are aware we must resolve our deficit problem before we can adequately address our debt problem.

Canadians are looking for leadership, for a plan that will not only provide guidance and direction necessary for all Canadians to participate in resolving our deficit problem as soon as possible, but would also identify what it would mean to our lifestyle during the whole process of achieving this.

Two plans have been presented. The government's budget plan reduces our deficit problem by less than half over a three

year period, of which one year has already passed, and involves cuts in services to some Canadians and not others.

The Reform Party taxpayer's budget calls upon all Canadians to accept a decrease in services across the board and to participate in a nationwide plan to eliminate the deficit in a three year period.

The Reform Party's taxpayer budget not only achieves the position of living within our means in three years, it also achieves implementing the decentralizing of some services such as health care to their rightful administrative positions, the provinces. It also removes the cash payment whip, increasing the tax credits in such a manner to allow the provinces to acquire the income necessary to meet the standards of the Canadian health care program as dictated by the Canada Health Act.

There is no need to stroll through the years toward the balanced budget target—we do not know when that is—and borrow horrendous sums of money along the way, as we are being directed by the Liberal government. We do have an alternative plan, an action plan complete in three years, not some indeterminate time period.

We have this in the form of the Reform Party's taxpayer budget. We have Reform members in Parliament who, given the opportunity, are willing and committed to provide the leadership necessary to lead the people of Canada to a balanced budget in three years and to eliminate the need to borrow horrendous amounts of money from foreigners in order to live the lifestyles we wish to enjoy.

• (1610)

Mrs. Dianne Brushett (Cumberland—Colchester, Lib.): Madam Speaker, with the taxpayer budget, as the Reform Party presented it, how would the member provide assistance to those old age people who are receiving OAS at the present time with the tremendous cuts they were prescribing for their budget?

Ms. Bridgman: Madam Speaker, to precede addressing specific issues, the Reform's taxpayer budget illustrates all the cuts that would occur over three years. We also look at pensions. The government has not actually identified and will not until autumn what exactly is going to happen there.

We are not suggesting that service will not be there. We are looking at a 15 per cent cut in OAS as an across the board of cut.

The other thing we are looking at is the RPSP concept. We have to look into this and work it out in the business community and see how this is going to work. However, that concept is quite reasonable and feasible to maybe replace our existing system and come up with something that is better in the long run, has a little more control from the individual's point of view as to how they wish to live their lives and also provide them with a sense of responsibility and a sense of security.