

She refers to the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. Again we have heard already from the National Action Committee its concerns about having its funding cut.

I think it is significant in this article by Carol Goar that while she points out these examples there is nothing that specifically says to cut them off. This is because we know if we did cut them off that we would be hearing from *The Toronto Star*, from the rest of the media, from our friends in the NDP, from our friends in the Liberal Party and from Canadians right across the country. We would be hearing great cries of outrage and concern that we were an uncaring and unfeeling government.

I felt exactly the same way when I picked up *The Globe and Mail* on April 30. There is a long editorial entitled "The index of the indispensable". It then lists an awful lot of things where the Government of Canada pays out money. It goes mainly to a lot of businesses for job creation.

All of these items are just listed. They do not say to cut these all out. They do not say to eliminate all these items. In my view they do not say that for a very good reason. They want to leave the door open so if that ever happened they could turn the tables around and be just as critical for cutting it out as they were for spending it in the first place.

All of this brings to mind the problems that this government has had in trying to cut in the past. It brings to mind the fact that when we closed down a military base a few years ago we were accused of destroying the economy of a province. It brings to mind that when we reduced the subsidy to VIA Rail we were accused of destroying Canada's national dream. When we reduced the subsidy to the CBC we were accused of maintaining an assault on Canadian culture.

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All of this to my mind just goes to point out how difficult it is to cut, even though people want cuts. It is because of that that we really need a mandate from the Canadian public. The Canadian public has to tell us for sure that it is not going to complain about cuts like cuts to these things that are the index of indispensability.

The Canadian public has to tell us that it is not going to complain about cuts to the Canadian alpine ski team, the Consumers' Association, the Federation of Libraries,

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the Planned Parenthood Association or the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

That is what the candidates in our leadership race for the leader of our party and the next Prime Minister of Canada have been saying. In fact, one of them, the Minister of the Environment, has been indicating that what we really need in this country and what the next election must produce is a mandate to make these spending cuts that have been so difficult. They have been opposed by the NDP, the Liberals and many Canadians who will be hit specifically by those cuts.

I would like to go on and deal with the third point in the budget of the Minister of Finance, the need for jobs and the desire of Canadians for jobs but I see that my time is up. Perhaps I will have an opportunity to comment on that in the time for questions and comments.

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina—Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, it was with interest that I listened to the remarks of the government member who I know is a fair and reasonable person.

That is why I would like to address this question to him. We can recognize the need for savings and the ever-growing deficit that adds to the accumulated debt. It has increased the amount of revenues that go to pay the interest which is like a cancer that is really killing public programs.

There is a need for savings and there is a need to reduce the debt, to start saving money and reduce the amount that we pay in interest every year.

I wonder if the hon. member would comment. There are some studies that suggest that cuts in certain areas are counterproductive. For example, in Toronto a study was done called the Vanderhoof study. It looked at the budgets of arts groups. In fact it took 60 performing arts groups and calculated the effect of the cutbacks to the Canada Council.

The Canada Council was cut back. In turn, the Canada Council cut back on these performing groups. These performing groups are now putting out less production. They have laid people off. The study showed that the decrease in GST collected, the decrease in income tax paid, the increase in UIC payments and in welfare payments had a net result that the federal government was losing more money than the value of the cuts to the Canada Council.