

ment but also on the basis of the apparent financial maturity on the centre. Since a few years ago, the centre has been recovering some of the costs of producing its information products. The 1989 decision meant that the centre should broaden its base of cost recovery. The costs are those associated with the costs of packaging and distributing these information products that are meant to be recovered, not the costs of information itself.

I may remind hon. members that cost recovery is not a new principle, nor is it confined to the federal government. It is a matter of good business practice within the public sector.

Of course, someone has to pay for the cost of producing, packaging and distributing the centre's products. However, one partner has been paying the lion's share of these costs, which are considerable. Consequently, if the other partners wish to continue to provide this information service, they will have seriously to consider ways of paying for that service.

As you know, Madam Speaker, the government is committed to establishing a constructive partnership with the labour movement and the business community, a process which will become more important than ever as Canadians strive to face up to the challenges of rapid social and economic changes in Canada and abroad. We are taking every opportunity to promote and favour an active and dynamic partnership between labour, business and the state in managing public funds and pursuing economic development.

Together with our partners, we can and must deal with common economic and social problems. However, responsibility and accountability go hand in hand with co-operation in national decision-making.

This government intends to establish the CCOHS on a solid footing while strengthening the impartiality and distinctiveness of its activities.

The provision of information services essential to Canadian workers, which is the main objective of the CCOHS mandate, would not be threatened by the commercial aspects of other operations.

The corporate plan confirms the possibility of ensuring the Centre's financial self-sufficiency within a few years, as the government has decided.

Private Members' Business

Madam Speaker, all economic sectors must participate in the national effort and join forces to reduce the deficit.

In the last few years, our government has taken often difficult and sometimes unpopular measures to eliminate unnecessary expenses and adopted a more efficient method of managing public funds. We must all adjust our priorities and allocate scarce resources in the most efficient manner possible. To a large extent, this government has succeeded in limiting public expenditures and will continue to do so.

• (1330)

[*English*]

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, I rise to support the hon. member for Hamilton West in his private member's motion calling for the reinstatement of funding for the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

When the centre was developed this funding was established as tripartite funding. I think it is important that we remember that the principle for this, just as the principle for unemployment insurance was designed to be a tripartite principle, was to ensure that all of the players were involved in both making decisions and paying for the process.

There are 26,000 inquiries a year made at this centre. That means that this centre is highly regarded in international circles, in terms of the service that it offers to Canada and to other countries in occupational health and safety. The government, having withdrawn the funding and suggesting that, in fact, this centre begin to charge fees for services, makes it the only health care agency and institution in this country that would be operating on the principle of user fees.

Imagine working with other international and national centres for occupational health and safety, gathering information that the other centres have discovered, then bringing it back to Canada and selling it for a user's fee. I would expect that many of the organizations that provide us the information would find it rather shocking that their information is being sold in Canada to possibly the highest bidder.

Today, hundreds of new chemicals are introduced into the workplace, almost daily. Men and women are going to work every day and in many cases have little or no idea of the kinds of things that they will be exposed to and the