

*Supply*

I was going to ask him to elaborate on some other measures he might have. I know that time is short, but I just want to make one comment before that.

I learned here this evening and had it confirmed that the training budget in Canada right now through UIC and the Minister of Employment and Immigration is \$3.8 billion. I look at how that money is spent versus the job development programs which have meant a great deal for my riding.

I see the member for Burlington who will remember the difficulty we went through when those job development programs were removed. That initiative had given the opportunity for those people who did not have work to get involved in programs. It was a major initiative for communities. It has now been taken away and has given way to \$3.8 billion in training programs. I think one has to look at the effectiveness of that. It bears very close watching.

Perhaps in the time remaining my hon. colleague from Vanier could give us indications of some of the other areas of accountability for the over-all management of the public debt he may have in mind.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I am interested in the question because tomorrow morning in the Standing Committee on Public Accounts we are looking at chapter 9 of the Auditor General's report. It deals exactly with the effectiveness of these employment and immigration programs. If he wants to come and participate in this great experience with the department and its experts, I would be more than pleased to receive him.

The question is one of accountability. Maybe it is a buzz-word, but it is a very important word for Canadians today. Accountability as far as I am concerned is the obligation to explain how one has used one's responsibility. That is what accountability is: responsibilities and the way you use them. Accountability is only meaningful when used in tandem with authority and responsibility.

• (1800)

I know it may be heavy stuff for some people. However if we do not understand that governments must be accountable to us for the way they spend and intend to spend our money, then there is absolutely no way that any government can operate or that any country can work.

I am saying that we have not had accountability as a direct reaction of this government to the people of Canada. I plead with governments in the future. I know our Liberal government when we do form the government will be fully accountable to Canadians on all aspects of public finances.

**Mrs. Dorothy Dobbie (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to engage in this debate. This is a topic that is a grave one to all Canadians. It should be of tremendous interest to all the members in this House.

I want to begin by dealing with a couple of issues. I would like to point out that the main estimates this year show that federal spending will rise only marginally by 1.5 per cent. This is lower than the growth rate, the cost of living and so on. This is the lowest growth rate in decades. It underlines our firm commitment to cutting waste and to improving efficiency in providing full value for every tax dollar spent.

At the same time the move to contain spending creates a real management challenge for us. It is difficult to make these kinds of changes, for example how can government deliver services effectively to Canadians with tight resources. It means we have to change the way we do things and take different approaches.

One of the ways in which we are responding to this challenge is through the Public Service managers. They must be as committed and resourceful as they can possibly be and need the tools to be flexible and innovative in the work place. I believe they are that resourceful and that committed and that they do have the tools, particularly since the spending estimates, they will have the guidelines and the leadership to show them the direction we want to take.

Let me first sketch very briefly the reasons that we need management ingenuity to ensure that Canadians continue to be as well served as they have in the past, but even more critically, to ensure that we are well served in the future as we go through these very difficult times.

The April budget extended and deepened the spending reductions that flowed from last December's economic statement. Together these measures will give us