

Lastly, Canadians realize that we must be prepared to forge and fashion our role in the world market-place if the blueprint of economic renewal is to become a reality. That is why the Canadian community is so supportive of the aims and objectives outlined in the statement of the Minister of Finance last Thursday in this House.

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[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ALLEGED INEFFECTIVENESS OF CERTAIN LEGISLATION

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Last Thursday, in commenting on the acquittal of Dr. Morgentaler, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) indicated that he did not intend to support an amendment to the legislation on abortion.

The 1969 legislation on termination of pregnancy is outdated. In fact, in most parts of Canada, recognized hospitals have refused to set up therapeutic abortion committees as provided by law.

The resulting inequities are obvious. Furthermore, the fourth acquittal of Dr. Morgentaler clearly illustrates the shortcomings of the existing legislation, which should be reviewed as soon as possible in order to change either the way it is implemented or its substance.

My purpose here is not to challenge the validity of our judicial system but to stress the ineffectiveness of certain areas of our legislation which penalizes individuals, in this case women, who require a service that, according to the legislation, should be available, but in practice is not.

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[English]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, during the election campaign the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) promised to reduce the deficit. Now, when the Progressive Conservative Government is actually making a reduction, he groans in dismay, "cut, cut, cut". This is understandable when his record as Minister of Finance shows that he increased federal Government spending by 99.8 per cent. Then his Liberal friends continued to increase spending, with borrowed money of course, until the public debt is now about \$190 billion. He would reduce the deficit by add, add, add.

Everyone, except the Liberals, knows a debt cannot be reduced by adding to it, but the Liberals have been trying to lift themselves by their own bootstraps for a long time. The Liberal Leader fights the reduction of the public debt against the wishes of the people.

Here are a few excerpts from editorials: *The Globe and Mail*, "Business across the country applauded the economic statement"; *Le Devoir*: "Only a lunatic would claim that the

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financial situation of the federal Government is not disastrous and does not require drastic measures of austerity"; and even the *Vancouver Province*: "—this tough, ambitious and fair program should stop the drift to higher payments just to cover the interest on our exploding debt". However, one of my Indian friends put it more succinctly. He said: "That Liberal Leader talks with a forked tongue".

The economic statement of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) reflects the thinking of the vast majority of the Canadian people. We will keep our promise to Canadians despite the moans and groans of members of the Liberal Party and of the NDP and we will build a new Canada—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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● (1410)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

EFFECT OF ANNOUNCED CHANGES

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, neither the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) nor the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) have tabled the impact studies which should show the effects of the announced cutbacks on unemployment insurance claimants, particularly those in the various regions of Canada where unemployment rates are far in excess of the national average. It is obvious that the Government views the unemployed as mere statistics. Therefore, in order to appear tough to the large and powerful business interests in Canada, and to create a climate of confidence for the private sector, the Government is prepared to crush those with the least economic power.

See how tough this Government is! See how the Government is slashing at the public sector! See how the Government creates confidence in the private sector! See how tough it is while it is crushing students, chopping research and development, and savaging public servants! See how it mollycoddles the rich and powerful—world prices for oil, no challenge to corporate concentration in Canada, no changes in the Income Tax Act to make the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes! It seems to me the Government has adapted a theme song from the *Three-Penny Opera*: "Mac the Knife is back in town".

The least the Government can do is table the impact studies relating to the announced changes in the Unemployment Insurance Act. I call on the Minister of Employment and Immigration to do so now.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT DECISIONS

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, the results of the election of September 4 indicated that