

The Budget

Canadians, is concerned about job creation and has taken a balanced view.

When we have one million Canadians unemployed it costs the economy \$25 billion, and I would suggest to the hon. member on the other side that perhaps the deficit is only the symptom not the root of the problem.

Mr. Silye: Mr. Speaker, I have long abandoned the deficit because when you say deficit the opposition tackles that. So let us present the real problem: the debt; the fact that the government is now adding another \$41 billion to the debt. It is going to be \$550 billion at the end of this coming fiscal year. It is the debt that is causing the problem and the interest on it. They make an emotional plea about jobs. Currently the unemployment rate is at 11.2 per cent. At the end of this year, with the finance minister's projections and the Minister of Human Resources Development with these 168,000 jobs offered, at the end of all this the unemployment rate goes from 11.2 per cent to 11.1 per cent. This is one-tenth of 1 per cent. Is that what this government calls giving jobs to Canadians?

• (1600)

All you do is talk and promise, promise, promise but you do not deliver the goods. Here was your opportunity to lower the deficit to a point at which you could leave money in the hands of private enterprise so it could create long-term, meaningful jobs and it is equity capital.

In the previous speech I heard the Minister of Human Resources Development say that capital creates jobs. There is no question that capital creates jobs but not borrowed money and not governments—equity capital not debt capital, private enterprise not public enterprise.

The Deputy Speaker: I would invite the hon. member for Calgary Centre to put his remarks through the Chair. The reason is quite simple. It is designed to promote harmony between the members by doing it that way. That is the theory.

Mr. Andrew Telegdi (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, let me express my harmony through you to the member for Calgary Centre.

Actually I have found the member for Calgary Centre to be rather reasonable on some issues. What I am concerned about is the amount of response we have coming back and forth between the government and the Reform Party. It is the same kind of debate that took place during the election campaign when we all were on the hustings. We were all debating the issue.

There is a fundamental question. We laid out a plan and our plan is the red book. The Reform Party laid out a plan which was the slash and burn book. My question to the member for Calgary Centre is will he not concede that we stayed true to what we said we were going to do in the red book?

Mr. Silye: Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. member and with respect, I just cite the figures of the finance minister which show that the Liberals were elected on a promise to create jobs. The number of jobs they are going to create after 12 months is one-tenth of 1 per cent. If the member figures it out himself he will see that is not very much of a growth.

If they keep that up in year two, year three and year four, pretty soon the rest of the member's mates will be back over on this side of the House and we will be all over there full. Once eastern Canada gets to see what we are talking about, the advantages of living within our means, it will understand that we have the right medicine and we have identified the right problem and not the pie in the sky that the Liberals keep talking about.

Mr. Dale Johnston (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister bought the Minister of Finance a new pair of work boots for the budget the other day and it is a good thing because he has certainly got his work cut out for him.

Like all new work boots, or at least like any that I have had, it will only be a matter of time now before he gets a certain amount of organic material on them.

This was the minister's first budget and we can only hope that within the next three budgets he will get better at reducing the deficit. This budget will put Canadians another \$39.7 billion in debt, bringing the total debt in two years to \$550 billion. If we add the projected deficit of \$39.7 billion to this and the \$32.7 billion for the forecast for next year, one will find that we are adding another \$72.4 billion to our already burgeoning debt.

Since we are living on borrowed money, as has already been pointed out by my hon. colleague from Calgary, and borrowed money is subject to interest of at least 7 per cent, if we are lucky, we are adding another \$5 billion in interest to that debt.

To switch off of the negative for second, I do wish to commend the minister for showing at least some restraint and changing some government operations which will produce some savings.

• (1605)

Unfortunately, it seems to me that all of this will be negated by the cost of the 18 new programs and 15 new studies announced in this budget.

When will this government admit that we have a spending problem? Spending is the key, not revenue. The government revenues for 1993-94 totalled \$127 billion. The Prime Minister said in this House not too long ago we cannot run government as if it were a business.

Even if we grant him that supposition, perhaps the government could be run like a household. Certainly, when we can no longer pay our bills in our household we have to take drastic measures; namely, do without some of the things that we can do