

Government Orders

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): It is my duty pursuant to Standing Order 38 to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, World Summit for Social Development; the hon. member for The Battlefords—Meadow Lake, The Budget; the hon. member for Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup, The Budget.

Mr. Jerry Pickard (Essex—Kent, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I listened very carefully to the comments of my colleague. I have heard the same comment day after day from the Reform Party that the Liberals are really very unrealistic about what is happening.

• (1700)

Why did John Bulloch, president of the Canadian Federation of Business, state that our budget was very believable, very credible? Why did John Fund, who wrote a highly critical editorial about Canada's \$540 billion debt, congratulate the government for being on the right course?

Could the member please inform me why the powerful Canadian Manufacturers' Association called our budget the first very serious attempt at balancing this country's books? Why is it that yesterday the chartered accountants association in this country congratulated the Liberals and said that we scored four out of five on their questions? We were at the top of the list in the way we responded to the debt and the deficit in this country.

The Canadian bond raters raised Canada's status. Each financial group, each authority on business in this country has come forward one after another. It is not the Liberals. They are not people who have been friends to the Liberals. They are representing very specific business and financial interests in this country. They applaud the steps taken by the minister.

Mr. White (North Vancouver): Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the member opposite for pointing out once again that a successful budget receiving praise from many areas is not a Liberal budget. This confirms what I have been saying time after time this afternoon. People wanted a budget that was not a Liberal budget. They were very pleasantly surprised by the general direction, although not quite far enough. The international markets seem to be telling us that.

Everybody out there wanted a budget that was nothing like a Liberal budget. All the member has done is confirm yet again that people do not want Liberal policies. They do not want

Liberal financial answers. They want real reforming budgets, reforming policies and a Reform government.

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it is never good for me to get up to speak after I have listened to the nonsense and the rhetoric from the other side, particularly the Reform Party.

I have sat in the House for quite a few years. I have listened to a lot of rhetoric in the House. The hon. member's rhetoric is perhaps the most unbelievable I have ever heard. He gave his entire speech talking about experiences in Michigan and New Jersey and the wonderful things that are happening everywhere else but in Canada.

I want to let him know something because he obviously has been out of the country for quite a while. There has been a revolution happening in Canada. It has been a revolution the Liberal Party has created about putting government back where it belongs, serving the public, allowing the free market to proceed.

Guess what? The Canadian public has looked at what we have done. It has not just given us a thumbs up. It has given us a resounding vote of confidence. Today the Angus Reid poll indicated the path we have taken with the recent budget is supported by over 70 per cent of Canadians polled. This was despite the doom and gloom and the nonsense the Reform Party spouts like a loose water cannon daily in this place.

Those members came into this place not because the Canadian public wanted a Reform style of politics but, with the greatest of respect, they came into this place in many ridings because the Tories simply lost the ridings, not because anybody agreed with the policies they had.

I consider myself to be a left leaning Liberal. I happen to believe that the New Democratic Party has a voice that Canadians need to have heard in debate. I look across at the Bloc Québécois and I have listened to the members opposite. Other than the fact they are horribly misguided with respect to their bent on sovereignty, most of these individuals opposite are Liberals by philosophy. One has to listen to them. They may want to take their province out of Canada but they have an underlying concern for the individuals, for the social policy, for the programs of this country.

I would not call the Reform Party left or right. That would put it on the continuum of common sense. It is right off the mark when it comes to being responsible and reflective of Canadians.

• (1705)

I want to talk a bit about the budget and this borrowing authority. I know the member is new here but even if there were