

country become more efficient and productive, thereby allowing us to add some strength to our economic capacity.

The list of cuts goes on and on. Because time is short, I cannot complete my enumeration of that list. However, I would like to say that my great disappointment with this new Government is that its performance falls so far short of its promises. It promised to be compassionate. What did it bring to us? It brought to us a new, harsh agenda for the social scene. The Government spoke of universality as being a sacred trust before the election and now it is directly attacking the universality of social programs. It is questioning the pension programs in this country. It is questioning the distribution of family allowances, social housing, federal-provincial transfers which include those for education, and health and social allowances.

The very large and widening gap between the Government's promises and its performance will be more and more visible to Canadians as time passes. People have every reason to start losing confidence in this Government. I would ask the Government to keep that in mind because it will see that rejection in the Gallup polls of which I know they feel so proud.

Mr. Caldwell: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member what he would consider a reasonable deficit. How high would he let the deficit rise? Around 25 per cent of our tax dollars is already going toward servicing the debt. How high would he let it go? What would be a reasonable level for the deficit?

Mr. Keeper: Mr. Speaker, obviously like all Canadians I would like to see the deficit as low as it could possibly be. The point that I was making is that cutting public expenditures the way this Government has will lead to greater unemployment, and greater unemployment will mean more social costs and less revenues for the Government. Therefore, we run the very real risk of ending up with a larger deficit than we have today. That is exactly what happened in the Province of British Columbia.

I think it is important that the Government focus on employment as the key priority rather than on the deficit. That is what it promised to do. If the Government focused on employment and got people back to work, it would have revenues coming in and there would be some real prospect of reducing the deficit.

Mr. Nickerson: Mr. Speaker, I have a comment to make. I listened carefully to the Hon. former Member for Winnipeg-St. James, the present Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Keeper). He figured he could not get re-elected in his old riding, and he was probably right, so he ran in another riding. He was condemning the Government for having said one thing before and during the election campaign and supposedly doing something else afterward.

What he was trying to do was instil fear in Canadians. He was saying: "Look at this Government that we now have. Look at what it is doing. It will decrease jobs and it will cut back on

the amount of money which will be available through the Government".

● (1520)

I would like the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre to look at the facts. What has happened in the two months of the lifetime of the new Government? Is it not a fact that already some 30,000 new jobs have been created in Canada? That is the way the Government is moving.

Look at interest rates. We promised to bring interest rates down, and in just two months' time interest rates have decreased almost a full percentage point. That will generate activity in the construction industry, and mortgage rates will decrease. I invite the Hon. Member to take a look at the facts and not give us empty NDP rhetoric.

Mr. Keeper: Mr. Speaker, we wanted the facts, so I asked the Hon. Member to prevail upon his colleagues in Cabinet to release the study that analyses the impact of the economic statement upon employment in this country.

The Hon. Member mentioned 30,000 new jobs. I would challenge him to tell me how many of those jobs are part-time and how many are full-time. He mentioned interest rates. We know that interest rates are coming down. They are coming down because the American economy is slowing down. That is a reason for concern. I would like the hon. gentleman to pay some attention to those facts, and release the information with regard to the economic statement analysis.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If there are no further questions, I will recognize, on debate, the Hon. Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Beatty).

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, perhaps at the outset of my remarks I could be forgiven if I digress slightly to welcome you to the House of Commons and to congratulate you on the assumption of your new and important responsibilities. I know that you will carry them out with great distinction and great vigour.

On behalf of Members of Parliament from the previous Parliament, I want to welcome the large number of new Members who have joined us in the House of Commons. The new Members, with their vigour, enthusiasm and fresh ideas, will contribute a great deal to the deliberations of Parliament, and can help us to renew government and the services that it provides to Canadians. It will be an honour to work with them.

I would also like to express a word of thanks to my constituents for the confidence which they have shown in me. This was my fifth election since 1972, when I was first elected, and I can simply offer to them the assurance that I will do the utmost, to the best of my ability, to discharge my responsibilities to them and to try to live up to the high honour which they have conferred on me.

On September 4, using the most effective tool at their disposal—their ballots—Canadians charted a new course for the federal Government for the remainder of the decade. Canadians charged this Parliament with the singular obliga-