

The Budget—Miss Grey

Mr. Blenkarn: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member comes from Windsor. When he signed up for this term in Parliament he received a pass on the railway. I wonder how many times he has used it and saved us the cost of air transportation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The time allotted for questions and comments has now terminated. Resuming debate with the Hon. Member for Beaver River (Miss Grey).

Miss Deborah Grey (Beaver River): Mr. Speaker, in my other life I was a drama teacher for about 10 years. I noticed from the other side a comment about the dramatic performance and theatrics of the Hon. Member for Hamilton West (Mr. Keyes). I would give the Hon. Member for Hamilton West a good, clear 9 out of 10. He was only surpassed by the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn). I would give him a clear 10 out of 10 for theatrics.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss Grey: I would also like to give my best wishes to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner). He is one who has gained my respect during the short time I have been here in the House. I will always remember the fact that he returned to the Chamber to listen to my maiden speech on April 12. He owed me nothing. He had no reason or responsibility to come to listen to me. He listened because he wanted to. I certainly admire him for that.

He also mentioned this afternoon that it is important for a Member to be around in the House. I think that illustrates that he has certainly practised what he has preached. I would like to thank him on behalf of the Reform Party, whom I represent, for being a hard worker and an ambassador for western interests. I certainly wish him every success in his future endeavours.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss Grey (Beaver River): Now, to the Budget debate. Of course, I feel quite qualified to speak on the Budget as I was the only Opposition Member in the House to hear the Budget—the second Budget if you will, Mr. Speaker—on April 27. I was told when I won the by-election that I may be lonely down here in Ottawa. I had no idea it would be that lonely, that I would be sitting alone on this side of the House listening. I certainly understand the other two Parties and their upset at the events which have taken place. Truly, it was an extraordinary situation. Nonetheless, I felt the re-

sponsible thing for me to do was to listen to the Budget. That is what I think Canadians wanted us to do. For me, the responsible thing was to listen to the Budget. Now, however, I must tell the House that the responsible thing to do is to oppose the Budget.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss Grey (Beaver River): I have planned extensive consultations with my constituents which will take place next week. However, I know my riding well enough to know that this Budget cannot be sold to the people.

In my maiden speech I talked about the importance of reducing the deficit and controlling the financial mess which we are in. I indicated certain things would have to be done if belt-tightening measures were to be made credible. I said there would have to be cuts at the top, even if they were largely symbolic. I said there would have to be evidence of sacrifice here. There is none. Spending on all major parliamentary institutions is well above average rates of increase. For instance, spending on the Senate is up by 10 per cent. Spending on the Library of Parliament is up by 9 per cent. Spending on the Governor General's Office is up by 20 per cent. Spending on the Ministry through the Privy Council Office is up by 16 per cent. Spending on the House of Commons is up by 9 per cent.

As my right hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition, points out, we have one of the most over-bloated Cabinets in history. Spending is up on their limousines, if you please.

Some Hon. Members: Shame.

Miss Grey (Beaver River): There is a tax-back of the old age pension. There is no-tax back of MP's pensions. So much for leadership from the top.

I said there would have to be cuts in the bureaucratic middle. There is no clear evidence of this in the Budget or the Main Estimates. There are not even measures that would allow an analysis of bureaucratic efficiency to be made. There are supposedly cuts in man-years but no analysis of the job levels at which such cuts will occur. In fact, a recent article in *The Ottawa Citizen* told us that there has been a 19 per cent rise in executive level positions under the Tory Government. That is a rise in positions which pay salaries between \$63,100 and \$111,700 annually. In any case, there is no way of knowing whether these reductions in man-years will simply be offset by contracting out.