

The Address

getting the deficit down and getting inflation down as well. There has to be a balance. We cannot get deficits down without making some pretty tough decisions on spending.

I acknowledge that there are people in the community who would like us to be spending more money on a number of policy areas, some of which he has referred to just now. I also say to him that the amount of moneys that the federal government is spending as a percentage of our national income compares favourably with Japan, with the United States, with Germany, with France. It is a question of encouraging the private sector to also match that performance in investing research and development moneys.

We have a tax system that is being judged by objective outside observers, not the Government of Canada, as being the best of the major industrialized countries in support of research and development.

My friend talks about training and says that some people in his constituency are having difficulty in getting access to training moneys. I ask him to think back to 1984. There was practically no money available for training, no money at all. We have built that up through the Canadian Jobs Strategy to \$1.7 billion prior to the changes in the unemployment insurance system. Through the changes there, we are redirecting some of those unemployment insurance system moneys into training, which will add another \$550 million this year, growing to \$750 million in a couple of years' time.

While there are people who want more training moneys—and I fully support that as a point of view—we have made a good deal of progress backing up the commitments and the priorities that we have established as a government since 1984.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne and the minister's speech are full of good words, soft, soothing, positive words. The rhetoric is spectacular but it is a fraud because the action is to the contrary. Just a few weeks ago, in a budget that he brought down as Minister of Finance, he cut by millions of dollars the training programs in Canada. The training moneys in Canada now are less than they were in 1984 in real dollars. They cut them by 32 per cent between 1984 and 1988 and then they changed the unemployment insurance program to

recuperate some of those dollars. In the recent budget they have cut them again, and they have cut moneys to post-secondary education.

The minister says they are doing that to get interest rates down, but you do not get interest rates down and you do not cut a deficit on the backs of education and training dollars. You never do that. There are other places to cut.

The minister and the Speech from the Throne speak with a forked tongue, in favour of education and training, and then they cut them back in the very next action they took just a few months ago.

I want to ask him how can any Canadian sincerely believe what he says in his speech this morning. How can they believe what is in the Speech from the Throne? We are getting double-talk from this government all the time.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, this type of rhetoric used by the hon. member does not help anybody develop a better understanding of the issue. If my hon. friend would go to OECD papers, the Organization of Economic Co-operation Development papers, he would see what has happened over the course of the last six and a half years. We had practically no active job-training moneys at that time. We had one of the largest passive income support programs of the OECD countries, but we were not putting nearly enough of it into training and education.

We have made a significant degree of progress in that, as I outlined in response to my friend from Kamloops, but more can be done, more should be done. What we are trying to do in the course of the consultations that will flow from the agenda for prosperity paper that I referred to in my speech is seek out the ideas of Canadians as to how we can do this working together. It is not just government training moneys. It is also getting a changed attitude on the part of business so that we have businesses themselves spending more money on training of their own employees.

There are some very powerful numbers which show that Canadian businesses do not spend nearly as much as their competitors in the United States, Germany, or Japan, and we must change this. It is a change in attitude, that continuous learning experience that was referred to in the Speech from the Throne, that is the