

The Address—Mrs. Collins

hope she will look at the budget cut and show some concerns there.

I am particularly interested in having the Hon. Member share with the women of Canada the secret held by the women of Capilano. The Hon. Member said that there are so many young, entrepreneurial-spirited women there who do not need or want any government support but are prepared to go into small business and show their entrepreneurship. I know that there are many young women and women of every age who have that desire but seem to be under some constraints, both in terms of obtaining loans from banks and obtaining support from business. Perhaps the Hon. Member could share the secret the women of Capilano know that the women I know do not know.

Mrs. Collins: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the congratulations of the Hon. Member and I look forward to working with her. I know of her very fine record of working with the women of this country.

I believe the women and men of my constituency to whom I speak who are interested in establishing small businesses really want encouragement. They want to know that, if they take those risks, they will have the opportunity of prospering and will not be so heavily inundated by government regulations and taxes that they will not be able to take those kinds of initiatives.

I certainly share with the Hon. Member her view that traditionally women have had a much greater problem obtaining the capital to begin new businesses. I have been in that position myself in the past. I believe it will be our responsibility, as indicated by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) during the debate on women's issues, to work with financial institutions, perhaps beginning at home with the FBDB, to ensure that women have the same opportunities to obtain risk capital in order to begin the business ventures that I believe will be the future of this country.

● (1200)

Mr. Winegard: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my endorsement to the comments which were made by the Hon. Member for Capilano (Mrs. Collins) and by the Hon. Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone) regarding the ongoing debate and the seriousness of the pornography issue. In recent days that issue has once again come to the fore. I look forward to debates in this House regarding the fine line between freedom and licence on this issue. I am pleased that the Hon. Member for Capilano raised the matter, and I could not let the opportunity pass to indicate that she is not alone in worrying about this very significant issue.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there further questions or comments on the speech of the Hon. Member?

[*Translation*]

We shall continue debate with the Hon. Member for Bellechasse.

Mr. Pierre Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, after listening to my colleague, the Hon. Member for Capilano (Mrs. Collins), I understand why the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) decided not to run in Capilano.

Mr. Speaker, I am both pleased and proud to have this opportunity to make my first speech in the House of Commons, after being elected for an initial term, and I say initial, because there probably will be several more, if we on this side of the House have any say in the matter.

I was anxious to speak on behalf of my riding today, especially since my constituents have not often seen their elected Member rise in the House of Commons, at least not lately. For twelve years the people of Bellechasse were represented by Mr. Adrien Lambert, who is known and admired by many Members of this House, and that is why today, I wish to say a special word of thanks to Mr. Lambert for the work he has done for his constituents and for the entire country.

I am particularly pleased to be rising in the House today, Mr. Speaker, because in recent years, we were no longer accustomed to seeing Quebecers speak in the House to represent their constituents, with the exception of the Hon. Member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle), the Minister of Public Works.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that Quebec Members are proud to join the Hon. Member for Joliette, the Minister of Public Works, in representing the interests of Quebec within our marvelous Canadian mosaic.

We all know, especially since last Thursday evening, that the state of our country's economy is precarious. The irresponsible and intrusive attitude of the previous government has resulted in a series of deficits which over the years have become a major obstacle to economic development in this country.

Even worse, I think, is their attempt to have the Canadian people believe the deficit was necessary to maintain some semblance of economic development and to wipe out unemployment. We can see what all those promises have done for us in the space of a few years.

All public institutions in Canada have a duty to balance their budgets. In Quebec alone, we have over 1,200 municipalities, which in the next few weeks must send a copy of their budget to the provincial authorities. That budget must be balanced. If they send a budget that does not balance, it is sent back and they are asked to send in a new budget.

The same applies to businesses and public and semi-public organizations. The same goes for all heads of families in Canada. They have to balance their budgets and avoid spending more than they earn. People will say sometimes borrowing