

Supply

spending now some \$3.8 billion in training and programs for the disabled and family relief.

Certain members opposite have a problem with these measures. They view them as a disgrace. Perhaps they should listen to the comments made by the International Monetary Fund's Michel Camdessus who was quoted in *The Toronto Star* last week. Referring to our efforts on the deficit, he said:

The last developments are positive, including the budget which was announced two or three days ago—My impression is that there is a very significant effort to take care of the public debt in Canada.

I was encouraged to see that there is an agreement between the central government and the provinces to work together on that—

That is rising provincial deficits:

—and to take measures together to bring that under control.

That is exactly what this budget does and tied in with the financial statement of the minister back in December 1992.

Mr. Milliken: It was your Whip who said it was a disgrace.

Mr. McDermid: I have sat in this House now for 14 years.

Mr. Milliken: Too long.

Mr. McDermid: The hon. member says too long and maybe he is right. I do not know. He is not going to have a chance to swing at me much longer, but maybe he is right. Maybe I have been here too long.

However this government over the last nine years has maintained the increase in spending at some 3.5 per cent. If my friend from Willowdale this morning would have had the same fire and fervour as when he talked to his brother when he was the premier of the province of Ontario who increased spending 10 per cent per year, year over year over the same period of time, we all might not have the same problems we have today. I say might, we might not.

We have gone through a recession that has been difficult on everybody, but the high spending of the Liberals in Ontario was followed by the high spending of the Liberals in Ottawa. The interesting thing is when they got defeated in Ottawa all those that ran the Liberal Party federally moved to Ontario to work with the

premier of the province of Ontario and carried their same spending habits to Ontario which put us somewhat behind the eight ball.

I heard them this morning talking about predictions. They were talking about all these terrible things that are going on in Canada. The predictions for Canada in the next two years are the best growth, the best job creation and the best economy of all the countries in the G-7. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that is pretty impressive.

Mr. Bevilacqua: The high unemployment rate, but it is not the highest.

Mr. McDermid: We will still have a high unemployment rate, but it is going down. Our work force is growing faster than other countries too. There are more people coming into the labour force in this country so we have to balance that off and the hon. member must understand that.

An hon. member: He does not want to.

Mr. McDermid: No, he does not want to admit that. He does not want to admit that we have more people coming into the work force than other countries, which has an effect on that. If we had the same entrance rate as other countries, we would have the best unemployment rate as well. My hon. friend is totally wrong there.

• (1105)

I am not sure how much time I have left. I want to touch for a moment on health care because the Liberals are very worried about leadership candidates. They go after the minister of defence and they go after my friend, the Minister of the Environment, and so on.

After listening to my friend from Winnipeg today making wild claims about the minister of defence, I want to read exactly what she said because one of the questions in the leadership debates was: What do you do about user fees? I am quoting from *Hansard*, page 18739 of April 30. This is what she said:

"There are disagreements over user fees. You know I am of the school, so for medical programs I am of the school of Benoit Bouchard. I have talked to a lot of economists who specialize in this area and who do not think it is the most effective way." This is referring to user fees.

That is in solving the problems of health care.