

*Government Orders*

lot of the parliamentary secretaries and arrange for government advertising to be cut. This profligate government that she supports is spending \$14 million advertising the goods and services tax and Canadians do not want the tax. It is trying to convince them by generous hand-outs of money that that is a wise expenditure. Also, the government is spending over \$300 million to set up this tax. Does she not think that is wasteful?

The hon. member stands in the House today and says that we never make suggestions on how to save money. We have said scrap this tax and save \$300 million; scrap the advertising campaign on this tax and the other government advertising and save another \$100 million; cut the cabinet in half and we would save probably another \$100 million. Yet the member sits here day after day and says we never make any suggestions.

In addition, my hon. friend from Broadview—Greenwood has proposed an alternative tax. We never hear any discussion about the single tax from the other side.

In light of that fact, first, will she apologize to the House for suggesting that we on this side have never made suggestions?

Second, I would like her to comment on another matter. She cited all these figures about deficit reduction. I wish I had the quote here at my fingertips and, had I known she was going to spout such nonsense, I would have brought it with me. In 1985 the Minister of Finance predicted that this year the deficit for the budgetary operations of the government would be \$14 billion or \$15 billion. Now it is \$30 billion. Does she not feel that it is time this government got out and made way for one that can manage the country, instead of one that mismanages the way this one does?

**Mrs. Dobbie:** Well, Madam Speaker, listening to the numbers that came from my hon. friend across the way, I can certainly understand why he is not the finance critic. It demonstrates his total lack of understanding of how the finances of the country work. He tends to think one can find \$100 million here and \$100 million there. That is the kind of thinking that got us into so much trouble in the first place. They used \$100 million to spend here, \$100 million to spend there and \$100 million in another

place. The next thing we knew the country was in hock up to its ears.

In addition to that, the hon. member has made a comment in the House several times that somehow or other we should not spend money on information programs to inform the Canadian public about what the government is doing and what the government plans to do. That may have been the method of governing the country used by the Liberals in their term of office. It was a period of fear, a period of secrecy, and a period of the right hand not knowing what the left hand was doing.

This government is an open government, and we think it is important that Canadians not only know what we are doing, but understand what we are doing. We take the time and make the effort to ensure that there is ample room for debate and discussion, informed debate and informed discussion.

Information campaigns cost money. That is true. But I think it is extremely important and a very good investment that Canadians be informed of the business of the government so that they can make their appropriate assessments on the polling day that will surely come when we will see the Liberal opposition once more go down to defeat.

**Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James):** Madam Speaker, just let me say in response to what the hon. Minister of Transport said a few moments ago that the Liberal Party respects individuality. The Liberal Party is not a monolith and the Liberal Party believes in not muzzling people when they have a point of view. If hotel security staff or people who are in charge of security make what some people believe to be a mistake, do you know what? We are allowed to comment on that. That is all I would say to that remark. As long as the Liberal Party stands for democracy, openness, and fairness, it will behave exactly like that.

I have a question for the hon. member from Winnipeg South. She asked us a moment ago: "Do you have a clear, well-defined plan?" The government has said that and asked that so many times, I want to throw it back to the hon. member from Winnipeg South. In the last five years the government has raised the debt of the country by over 100 percent; from \$170 billion to \$360 billion. Talk about a giant leap! Talk about a quantum leap! I want to ask the hon. member from Winnipeg South whether that sprang from a well-defined, clear plan?