

Adjournment Debate

to do? How am I going to repay that \$10,000 debt?" I really do not know. During the last week, I have been talking to constituents, people from Diamond, St. Germain, River Park South, St. Vital and in my own area where I live, Windsor Park, Niakwa. I have been talking to people from Norwood and from St. Boniface.

They have been saying a lot of interesting things. Interestingly enough, they match some points made by Carol Goar in *The Toronto Star* today. First of all, she identified the major culprit in the increase of inflation, the very element that the minister is trying to control, as the minister himself. Why? Because of the increases in taxes. The minister is the major culprit. She goes on to say that between 1986 and 1990, income has gone up since 1986 by 32 per cent. But the federal tax load has gone up by 35 per cent, and that is not even counting the astronomical increases in provincial and municipal taxes.

Ms. Goar goes on to point out that beating the inflation rate down is one way of proceeding but it has high costs, severe unemployment. We know that. It is almost 10 per cent. It is predicted to go up to 10 per cent. So people are frightened.

One more point that she makes and my constituents have made is: "In order for Canada to enjoy an new golden era, it will have to find its niche in a world of fiercely competitive trading blocs where the environment must be respected and brains count more than natural resources".

That is the issue. That is what the government has not understood, that we have to invest in our people in order to be competitive. Cutting the transfer payments, cutting the grants for training and retraining, capping research and development, science and technology is not going to achieve that goal.

[*Translation*]

M. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if you knew how fed up I am to hear the Opposition say foolish things. Education, first of all, comes under provincial jurisdiction. The federal government makes a substantial contribution to this sector under Established Programs Financing. It will contribute \$20 billion this year and this amount will continue to increase in the following years.

Total federal transfers to the provinces, Mr. Speaker, will reach \$36 billion this year. It means that 22 per cent of the federal government total Estimates, 22 per cent of the revenues collected from Canadian taxpayers will go directly to the provinces, to provincial organizations, and these payments are in cash. Furthermore, the government gives financial support to the provinces under various other programs.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, since 1984, an attempt was made to reduce the inherited debt. My colleague from the Opposition does not like it to hear this, but it is a fact. We have to try to reduce the debt which we inherited from his party, from his government.

Mr. Duhamel: Tell the truth!

Mr. Vincent: You see, Mr. Speaker! I let him speak. He could be polite and return the courtesy.

Mr. Duhamel: Tell the truth!

Mr. Vincent: I am telling the truth. Allow me to speak, I was polite with you.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague referred to a \$100 million cut-back in the employment development program. Again this is not true. It is not a cut-back but a reduction of the projected increase. There is quite a difference between a decrease in salary—the people of Trois-Rivières know all about that—and a decrease in the rate of increase of my salary. That difference has to be made.

As my colleague pointed out, at the 1989 conference of provincial premiers the Prime Minister was the one who raised the issue of education in Canada, and he has already done an excellent job to find solutions to the national problem of education. It was the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Hon. Brian Mulroney, who did that with his provincial colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I see that my time is running out. In conclusion I should like to say that the budget of the Minister of Finance relies on the private sector so that our policy will produce dividends for all Canadians.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly this House stands adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 6.29 p.m.