

*Family Allowances Act*

also want something else. They would like this Government to stop making foolish expenditures, when for instance it wastes \$56 million on new uniforms for the Canadian Forces. Our taxpayers, those at home at least, are concerned when their tax money is being used to buy limousines for Ministers, cabinet Members and so on. Thirdly, hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent uselessly to redecorate the Ministers' offices. We hear also that hundreds of thousands of dollars, even millions of dollars, are wasted by the Ministers travelling on private jets both in Canada and to other continents. They are afraid, apparently. On top of this, we could add the billion of dollars the Government will spend to bail out the Canadian Commercial Bank.

So my constituents back home are concerned because they feel that these are useless expenses and they are eager to see the national debt reduced and the social services maintained. Also, they want jobs. But they certainly do not have the same priorities as Hon. Members opposite seem to have.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The Chair recognizes the Hon. Member for Champlain (Mr. Champagne).

**Mr. Champagne:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask my hon. friend from the Opposition how she can talk in the House about spending public funds in an exemplary fashion, in order to redistribute the wealth among our constituents, among the Canadian people, when her own Government, over the past 20 years, managed to create a deficit that is practically insurmountable, and to accumulate a debt that the Canadian people, more specifically our families, our senior citizens and most everybody, will have to pay. Because her Party which was the Government at the time and which is now in the Opposition is now claiming that it has found all the answers that eluded it for 20 years. They are raising issues they were unable to solve successfully over a 20 year period.

As my colleague the Minister of State for Small businesses (Mr. Bissonnette) was saying, we have created a great many permanent jobs and we must repair the damage which your Government caused when it was in power.

I think also that if you were a little bit honest, you would stand up in the House and admit that your party is responsible for the deficit, a problem that we must now solve in the interest of all Canadians. That is what the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said and that is what we are going to do.

**Mrs. Killens:** Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to point out that when we were on the other side of the House as a Government we had only 36 ministers, but they now have 40. That is what we mean when we talk about ministerial budgets. I did say something about the limousines, but that is peanuts. They decided that an executive assistant was just not good enough, so now they have put a chief of staff over the executive assistant, and is he ever well paid! Just one more item to boost

the budget. I am saying this in passing, but I could mention a few other things.

I would like to say something to the Hon. Member—whose riding I forget—who shouted 6 and 5 a moment ago. Now that is one of the programs we are proud of, it is one of our better achievements because we got co-operation from all segments of society—the elderly, parents, management, industry, unions. It had to be a sound decision since we were successful in lowering the inflation rate from 12 per cent then to 3 or 4 per cent now.

**Mr. Bissonnette:** The Hon. Member referred to the use of Government aircraft. Well last year we used them 30 per cent less than your Government did. Thirty per cent less last year. What do you say to the people of Quebec when we invest more than \$160 million in Quebec industries to create jobs in your riding? Now that is something. More than \$800 million in investments in the coming months, in Quebec alone. Only to create jobs. Now, what about interest rates—2.75 per cent less for a family with a \$40,000 mortgage—what about that? It amounts to over \$1,000 a year. Did you tell that to the Canadian people? No. I think one has to be more positive, even on the Opposition benches. One must be positive and see things as they are. That is the message I wanted to convey to you.

**Mrs. Killens:** I am not in position to argue about figures, about the \$35 to which you refer. It could be less costly but I will surely have the opportunity to check and we will see in a few months whether—

**Mr. Bissonnette:** Some 30 per cent less.

**Mrs. Killens:** You say 30 per cent less, very well.

Now you know when a moment ago you took all the credit for the improvement in interest rates and everything else, all this is the result of our efforts. Now it is because—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** We are through with questions and comments.

[*English*]

Is the House ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The Hon. Member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Baker) on debate.

**Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, I have a few words to say in this particular debate. It is rather amusing to listen to a Cabinet Minister across the way take credit for the jobs that were created in the country since the new Government was elected. The fact of the matter is that the best record in the past three years for the creation of jobs in the private sector in this country is held by the Turner administration. When one checks with Statistics Canada one discovers that on a month-to-month basis that is a fact.