

*The Address—Mr. Keeper*

the deficit, it has a large deficit. Its economic performance has in large part been fueled by public expenditures in the area of defence. Therefore, this focus upon the deficit really deserves to be questioned. With the passage of time, more and more Canadians will question this focus. They will experience the increased unemployment which the forecasting agencies are now predicting.

It is essential for us to be aware of the fact that this Government with its bloated majority promised one thing in the election and, having got itself ensconced in office, does another thing. That is enough to erode the confidence which Canadians have had in this Government.

When the Conservatives were in opposition and seeking to become the Government, they said that they could cut the deficit by cutting out waste. They said they would not have to cut out needed, worth-while, productive public expenditures, that they could cut the fat without cutting the muscle. What is our experience now that they are in office and showing their true colours, now that we see the fulfilment of their actions? One area where they have cut is CHIP, the Canadian Home Insulation Program. What reasonable Canadian would call that program waste? The opportunity to insulate a home, to make it more energy-efficient, is an investment. It is not only an investment for the nation, it is an investment for the individual. That action alone belies the notion that the cuts in expenditures were just going to be cuts in waste.

They are going to cut down on unemployment insurance expenditures. What will the result be? It will simply result in those people who have no employment being forced off unemployment insurance on to welfare. Does that constitute a reduction of wasteful government expenditures? No, that is a misdirected public policy. It simply shifts the burden from one hand to the other. It makes it difficult for people.

● (1510)

The Government cut funding to foreign aid. It cut the few dollars that we give to the Third World, countries in which people live in such poverty that we can only intellectualize about it, poverty that we have not personally experienced. This was aid to people who suffer in ways we have no way of imagining. Canadians want to help Third World countries, yet what does the Government do? It cuts developmental aid to those countries. Is that another example of what the Government promised when it said it would only cut out waste in government expenditures?

Another program cut by the Government was Summer Canada. Everyone knows that the unemployment rate in this country is very high, particularly amongst young people, and that young people need work in the summer so that they can feel productive, so that they can gain experience and can save some money to return to high school or university in the fall. Yet the Government has the audacity to cut funding for Summer Canada which provides summer employment for students. To be fair, I understand that the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) has since backed away from that position and indicated that the Government

will replace that program with something else. If Canadians can get their message through to the Government, perhaps there is some hope that the Government will see the error of its ways and will do something to correct its actions when those actions are found wanting.

I am disturbed as well by government expenditure cuts in the area of Indian affairs. If there is any group of people in the country who live in poverty and desperation, whose living conditions are more on a par with those in the Third World than they are with middle-class Canadians, it is the native population of the country. I am appalled that the new Government which promised to be compassionate and to give new hope to people cut funding in the area of Indian affairs. I am sure that most Canadians would be shocked by such cuts.

The list goes on and on. It is important to reiterate this list because of the fact that the Government, when it was running for election, indicated that it would reduce only the waste and would not cut out anything that is important to people. Yet when it gets into office, it cuts into programs that are essential, productive and are in fact an investment. The Government's performance belies its promise.

As another example, the Government cut out Canertech, an organization that was meant to deal with alternative energy sources like solar energy. It is important that we find alternatives to crude oil as a way of fueling our industry and heating our homes, yet this is one of the areas in which the Government made cuts. Surely investment in alternative energy is in fact an investment and not a waste. I wonder what the Government's definition of the word "waste" is.

The Government also cut the budget for the National Research Council. That investment dealt with solar energy and technology. A very good example of what the Government has done can be seen in Winnipeg. I am hoping that this is one of the areas in which the Government will reverse its action. It cut out the Manufacturing Technology Institute in Winnipeg. This is an institute which had been lobbied for for a long period of time. Unfortunately, when it finally came about it was announced by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) and therefore became identified as a Liberal goody for Winnipeg.

We should not let that confuse us, Mr. Speaker, because this technology centre is very important. It assists manufacturers in Winnipeg and in fact across Canada to adjust to new technologies and to be more productive. This is in fact a use of public funds that supports the private sector and therefore it would have fitted nicely into the new Government's ideological framework and into its feeling that if we are to create employment, we need to do it through the private sector. Here was an ideal opportunity for the Government to use public funds in order to promote its own objectives. Instead, it cut it out.

I am hoping that when the Minister of Finance goes to Winnipeg and meets with ordinary residents of Winnipeg, he will learn how vital this institute is to the Manitoba economy and will give very serious consideration to reversing that decision. Once again, we can have an agency in Winnipeg that will help the manufacturers in our province and across the