

I wish also to point out the work of Mediawatch to promote public awareness to the problem of the portrayal of women.

Thanks to such initiatives, it may one day no longer be necessary to praise those who portray women as reasonable and regular people.

* * *

[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE 2000

Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, Public Service 2000 would alter the face of an institution which has served Canadians with dedication and excellence for years. While true reform can be healthy, it is unacceptable that the government wants to make sweeping changes without fully consulting those who will be most affected, all Public Service employees.

Public Service unions feel that senior management, Treasury Board, and Privy Council offices are controlling the entire process, and that the concerns and ideas of frontline workers are being ignored. Morale among Public Service employees is low. Why is the government not taking advantage of this invaluable source of experience and innovation if it really wants effective reform?

The government is trying to stifle debate by silencing the potentially powerful voice of frontline Public Service employees. Our Public Service has a history of excellence and dedication to Canadians. To propose any change, much less radical change, to this institution without consulting all Public Service employees is not only a cruel exercise of power, it is counter productive.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister.

In the United Kingdom, dozens of government MPs have deserted Mrs. Margaret Thatcher because she would not listen to Britons, she would not listen to her

Oral Questions

own MPs nor even her own cabinet. She persisted in imposing a devastatingly unfair tax.

Here in Canada, government MPs are quitting or are being forced out of the Conservative government caucus for many of the same reasons. In fact, only 4 per cent of Canadians think that the policies of the government have helped the economy.

When will this government drop the "my way or no way" approach that has brought about the political demise of Mrs. Margaret Thatcher? When will the government drop the GST and bring in new economic and tax policies that will help Canadians get out of the mess created by the economic policies of this government?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, it is rather surprising to hear that question from the Leader of the Opposition. I thought that Canada was an independent, sovereign country with its own political system and its own political institutions. Is he suggesting that we revert back to the old way of doing things? I would have thought that, even in spite of his 30 years' service, he would be more modernistic in his approach than that.

The fact of the matter is that the economic agenda which is enshrined as a part of government policy was articulated in 1984, in the economic statement of 1985 and again in the election campaign of 1988. It clearly outlines the structural changes that need to be implemented. It requires that Canada be competitive in a globalized marketplace. What we are trying to do is put in place the kind of programs and policies that will prepare Canada to be a full participant in a modern globalized economy.

* * *

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the policies which the minister talked about have created the first made in Canada recession, according to the Conference Board of Canada. In these times of recession the President of the Treasury Board is about to announce substantial cuts in government assistance, allegedly to finance the military operations of Canada in the Persian Gulf.