

Adjournment Debate

average for nearly 1 per cent of the export price or, more than 10 per cent of many exporters' profit margins.

By removing the tax on inputs, the GST is doing away with this disadvantage and reducing operating costs in Canada. The direct result of that will be an increase of about \$9 billion, or 1.4 per cent of our gross domestic product, i.e. the amount of products and services generally produced by our economy. Increased growth means increased investments and job creation for Canadians.

[English]

THE BUDGET

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): By coming to this House this evening and being rather angry at the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, I am going to let my colleagues in this House and Canadians decide whether or not I have cause to be in this state.

A week ago yesterday I asked a rather simple question in the House of Commons, and I will quote it in order to make sure that I do not mislead anyone. A little over a year ago the Prime Minister stated, and I quote the Prime Minister: "In our second mandate we are going to focus more and more of our attention and resources and the fundamental building blocks of a competitive society on long-term investment in people, skills training, education, research and development."

• (1820)

I went on to say: "yesterday's continued freeze"—because it was the day after the budget—"of transfer payments for education as well as the \$100 million cut for training constituted a flagrant contradiction of what the Prime Minister said."

What answer am I given? What stands out most of all? "They are not frozen". I did not say that. I said that there was a continued freeze of what had been. I pointed out that according to the minister's own budgetary figures, \$100 million had been reduced or cut—call it what you will—for training.

After the Minister of Finance makes his statement, there is in *Hansard* documentation that the Prime Minister said: "They are not frozen." Supposedly they have been increased by 3.7 per cent. Why does the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance not tell Canadians

what that 3.7 per cent means? It means a transfer of tax points, but that is very different from cash. The cash is drying up. The Prime Minister knows it. The Minister of Finance knows it, and I am disappointed.

When is a cut a cut? We have in the estimates dealing with post-secondary education a reduction, a change of \$485.8 million, almost \$500 million. How large does it have to be? When is a cut a cut? Why this doubletalk? When will the minister stop using gobbledegook? Will the minister or his parliamentary secretary stand up in this House today and tell Canadians, admit to them that he has cut post-secondary education, thereby threatening our nation's competitiveness?

[Translation]

Last year, the Canadian University and College Association as well as the Canadian Federation of Students had predicted, in light of last year's budget, that the cash payments would stop in some provinces—if I remember well and I think I do—in 1997 in Quebec, in 1999 in Ontario and at about the same time in the other provinces. That was before another freeze was brought in. The situation is getting worse. Why is the federal government withdrawing completely from the cash payments program? Why is the minister penalizing the poorer regions? Why does the government persist in attacking programs that bring us together as a nation?

[English]

On October 23, 1990, I had also asked the minister a question with respect to the goods and services tax and the impact it would have on students. I suggested, according to a study it received, that it would cost students between \$340 and \$750 more per year.

Again, it was gobbledegook. It was inconsistent. It was illogical. It was not precise. This continued freeze will cost students another \$1,000 between now and 1995. We know that the tuition fees are going up at an astronomical rate. I mentioned that at one college in British Columbia the rates were up over 300 per cent. There are tuition fee increases of 200 per cent, over 100 per cent.

The student debt is skyrocketing out of sight. I met a young woman two days ago from my constituency who said to me: "I have just graduated. It was from a very prestigious university, but I cannot find a job. What am I