

Government Orders

the House as soon as we get the report back from the committee.

Our intention is that both the debt servicing and reduction account and the spending control limits will be in effect for 1991-92.

Mr. Lapierre: Preston Manning wants it.

Mr. Mazankowski: He is talking about Preston Manning. I understand that there is an organic union taking place between the Bloc Quebecois and the Reform Party of Canada. That will be an interesting mating season, I am sure.

Mr. Mills: Be careful of those descriptions in this House.

Mr. Mazankowski: Yes, I guess so. In light of the debate that has been going on, I guess I will have to.

Working together, the two measures will ensure that the GST revenues will not be used to fund new programs but only be used to reduce the deficit.

As a result of these and other budget measures, the deficit will be held to \$30.5 billion this year, then fall to \$25 billion in 1992-93 for the first time in a decade. The deficit is then forecast to decline rapidly year by year to reach \$6.5 billion by 1995-96. The net public debt will begin to decline as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product in 1992-93. By 1994-95, the need for additional borrowing from the public will be eliminated for the first time since 1969 and 1970. The government at that time will begin the painful process of starting to pay down publicly held debt, and that will be a *alleluia* day for all of us I am sure.

These are indeed challenging measures at challenging times. They are matched to the toughness of the fiscal challenge that faces Canada. They reflect the government's commitment to winning the battle against the deficit and the debt and they reflect the views of many Canadians who have told the government to lead the way and take decisive action necessary to get the job done. I think they have gone beyond the government. I think they have asked MPs to lead the way to fight the battle of the deficit and the debt.

Deficit and debt control are vital foundations for more than just our future economic prosperity. They can contribute directly to the bonds that link us together as a

nation. One of the keys to strengthening the unity of our country is to strengthen our economic union and improve our fiscal position. This will help generate the confidence and make available the resources we need to address the regional aspirations and social concerns that challenge us all.

By putting our financial house in order, we can help to ensure a prosperous, united future for all Canadians. Unity, prosperity, economic renewal, political responsiveness, all of these are inter-related. These are the goals that have guided and will continue to guide our policies and the future we seek for Canada. By continuing to fulfil our commitment to these goals, we will ensure that Canada continues to provide generous social and economic benefits to its citizens.

This is an important piece of legislation. This is an important debate and I know that all members will take a very deep interest in it for what it means and what it will do. I urge that all members support this bill. I hope that we can move it through the House and through the committee with dispatch.

[*Translation*]

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Madam Speaker, today I would like to say a few words about the bill but also about our national debt and national deficit.

First of all, I want to say we intend to support the principle of the bill on second reading, so that it can be referred to committee for consideration.

[*English*]

We will support this Bill C-21 in principle at second reading so that it can go to committee and so that we can study it further. In doing so, there are two principles which we see at issue here that we are willing to support.

The first of these is that the revenue from the GST not be used to go into the patronage tank or the vote-buying tank that many of us suspect it was intended for when the GST was brought in. If a measure can succeed in doing that, it is worthy of our support.

The second principle we see in the bill that we are willing to support is that the growing problem of the government debt and the continuing problem of its deficit need to be addressed.