

Government Orders

the months ahead. Growth will be slow. Employment is expected to continue growing, but now as quickly as the labour force, and the unemployment rate will rise.”

We really have to wonder if we will ever see a strong economy with this government.

[*English*]

Madam Speaker, with this new budget we cannot congratulate the Conservative government for spending restraints. It is too little, too late. As stated by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, and I quote: “If tax increases had been matched by spending cuts, the deficit would be half of what it is today and consumers would not be paying 20 per cent for consumer credit and small businesses would not be paying 16 per cent for their operating loans”. Once again, the Canadian population will be paying for government mismanagement. This Minister of Finance is responsible. How much more can we take?

[*Translation*]

Madam Speaker, if inflation and interest rates continue to rise in 1990, we will be heading straight for a recession that will have been brought about by the Minister of Finance. In the Budget, the government announced that unemployment would rise and that assistance to business would be limited. As the Minister said: “With limited exceptions, grants will be eliminated and financial assistance will be repayable on more rigorous terms.”

How does the government view the future of small and medium-size businesses in Canada? Is he favouring large businesses only when he tells us that to master our future in a changing world, we must expand our capacity to produce and sell Canadian goods and services at home and in markets around the world? Are Canadian small businesses not the very foundation of our regional and national economies?

How does the minister account for his cuts of more than \$18 million at the Federal Business Development Bank, which is involved solely in assisting small business? More than half of the bank's budget has been cut, from \$34 million in 1989-90 to \$15 million for 1990-91.

Madam Speaker, the federal government announced it would abandon its regional development policy, without telling us whether the votes in question would be reallocated to other regional development initiatives or simply scrapped. Is this the beginning of the end for our regions, for the businesses in those regions and especially for the people who want to work there?

[*English*]

This budget is not serious. How can it be when the minister announces so innocently that “there will be no new taxes in this budget”? How can he say such a thing when everyone knows that Canadians from all provinces will live the side effects of the reduction of transfer payments to the provinces? It is a direct result of the budget presented in this House.

In my province of Quebec each taxpayer will have to pay \$582 more because of this new budget. As someone so eloquently said, “Tory times are tough times” and “Tory times are taxing times”. Since 1984 Canadians have been blessed with 31 separate tax increases. What a blessing.

No new tax in the budget but the mechanism is in place for the new one next year.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I am very sorry to have to interrupt the hon. member, but I just wondered when she intended to address the bill before the House today, the Small Businesses Loans Act.

I realize she is making an excellent speech, but she is getting into the far more general subject we have been considering all week.

I would appreciate it if the hon. member would concentrate on the subject now before the House.

Mrs. Maheu: Madam Speaker, without wishing to contradict you, the GST and the Budget do have a tremendous impact on our small businesses.

[*English*]

No new tax, as I was saying, in the budget, but the mechanism is in place for the new one next year, the GST, the goods and services tax, the tax the minister says will make low income Canadians better off, the tax nobody wants, the nightmare for small business, as Mr. Bullock of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business said.