

*The Budget—Mr. Ravis*

I noted that in his remarks he referred to the continuing thrust of this Government toward job creation led by the private sector, which was initiated in the November, 1984 Economic Statement and continued through the May Budget and the most recent Budget. I wonder if my colleague's constituents have noted with amusement the antics of front-bench members of the opposition Parties who, back in November, 1984, felt that the idea of the private sector being able to lead the way in job creation would be rather amusing. I realize that the concept is foreign to them. Indeed, back in November of 1984 those who sat on the front benches of the Opposition were wondering whether it would be a matter of 60,000, 100,000 or 200,000 jobs lost as a result of the policies enunciated. At that time one opposition front-bencher said: "Last night, the Minister produced a program which gave Canadians tax increases and cut-backs which will destroy thousands of jobs". The fact is, on the contrary, far from losing 50,000, 100,000 or 200,000 jobs, the Government has created 580,000 new jobs. Furthermore, most of these jobs are permanent, durable and lasting jobs, unlike the few which were created by our predecessors which were jobs of short duration. These were jobs in the area of painting fences, cleaning up cemeteries and the like, after which the workers would be laid off and back on unemployment insurance.

I am wondering if the Hon. Member's constituents have noted with amusement the about-face of members of the Opposition who back in November of 1984 were jeering. They were saying how risky this was and how terrible and dire the results would be. Now that we have seen hundreds of thousands of jobs created through the policies of the Government we can see the spectre of the Official Opposition suggesting that these job-creation figures come about as a result of a time lag. In fact, they have come about as a natural progression of their own bankrupt policies which are now somehow producing these hundreds of thousands of new jobs. Have the constituents of my colleague from Saskatoon East noticed this hypocrisy on the part of members of the official Opposition and are they giving credit to the outstanding policies of our Government?

**Mr. Ravis:** Mr. Speaker, I mentioned earlier that there is a certain amount of cynicism out there. It is understandable why a great many of my constituents are cynical given some of the negative things which they hear day after day, not only from members of the Opposition but from members of the media as well. Nobody seems to like good news. It seems to me that when one takes a look at some of the economic trend lines these days, in terms of what has been happening in the country, I am proud to stand in my place and take some of the credit along with my colleagues. I think my constituents can see through all that. They are saying: "This Government is on the right track. Let's give them a chance. Sure, they are not perfect, they will not do everything overnight". I think it is important that one look at the direction in which we are going. That is the most important thing. Where are the trend lines pointing? They are all pointing up. There is a renewed sense of confidence in the country. There is a sense by the small business sector in particular that it wants to make some

investments because there is a brand new Government in Ottawa.

● (1530)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I will recognize the Hon. Member for Scarborough Centre (Mrs. Browes), followed by the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis), and that will be it.

**Mrs. Browes:** Mr. Speaker, I compliment the Hon. Member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ravis) on his presentation today, in particular on how he approached the topic of the deficit reduction and the agenda for it. He expanded upon a number of words such as leadership, trust and confidence. I believe those are the kinds of things for which Canadians are looking.

Many people in my riding have been in touch with me, and I should like to refer to some of their comments in this area. One constituent wrote: "I am a senior citizen who listened to Michael Wilson present the Budget. I accept this Budget which I feel is fair to all segments of our population. It is moderately tough but all reasonable persons will understand that it has to be in order to reduce the deficit". Another constituent wrote: "Please thank Mike for his no-nonsense Budget. We are lucky to have Mr. Wilson in this critical post. People I talk to appreciate his guts, strength, fortitude, intelligence and devotion at this difficult time". Another constituent wrote: "It is a step in the right direction", and another wrote: "It was long overdue".

These are examples of some of the sentiments and comments of people in the riding of Scarborough Centre. Could the Hon. Member indicate whether they are representative of the kinds of comments from the constituents of Saskatoon East?

**Mr. Ravis:** Mr. Speaker, possibly the Hon. Member did not hear me mention that one of the most commonly used expressions about the Budget when I was in Saskatoon last week was: "It is long overdue". On the other hand, nobody likes the bitter pill, the fact that we have to face up to the reality of the country today and pay additional taxes, but they were saying that it was long overdue.

**Mr. Attewell:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am not totally familiar with the House rules, but I believe the Hon. Member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ravis) went about 22 minutes, and normally 50 per cent of the time is allowed for comments or questions. Would Your Honour consider adding a bit of time so that I might ask him a question, inasmuch as he went over?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I went a little overboard as far as the Hon. Member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ravis) is concerned, and I have already given a little more as far as the 10-minute question and comment period is concerned. I will now recognize the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis). There are many other Hon. Members who want to speak on the Budget. Would the Hon. Member please resume his seat. I do not mind being lenient as far as speakers are concerned, but there are other Hon. Members