

S.O. 21

[Translation]

THE BUDGET

IMPACT ON ECONOMY

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Louis-Hébert): Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support and that of my constituents for the Budget presented yesterday by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).

The measures contained in the Budget are realistic, effective and particularly equitable. We have made the decisions required to guarantee economic recovery and job creation. They were difficult decisions, but we had to come to grips with the situation, and that is something the Liberal Party has refused to do for too long.

Our Government's first priority is job creation. We want Canadians to have lasting and satisfactory jobs, particularly young people who want and need them.

Mr. Speaker, the Budget measures will create employment by encouraging private initiative, managing public affairs more efficiently and controlling the national debt. We have just turned a page of history and we are now beginning a new and challenging era.

* * *

THE BUDGET

IMPACT ON THE ELDERLY

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): At 4.30 p.m. yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the people of Canada heard about the full extent of the intentions of this Government and the Prime Minister. The whole country has been under dark clouds since 4.30 yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, the Government has struck a low blow to the 2.5 million elderly Canadians who will have to cope with a \$100 income drop next year. What is more, the Government will also take \$100 a year from needy senior citizens.

And as I suggested in a question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), who sees eye to eye with financiers, his Budget does not affect the 6,000 people with higher incomes ranging from \$50,000 to \$99,000, so they will still not pay any income tax.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Canada know now what the Government and the Prime Minister have in mind, and I sincerely hope they will defeat this Government in four years from now.

[English]

AGRICULTURE

EFFECT OF BUDGET ON FARMERS

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the only farmers to receive relief in yesterday's Budget were those who have given up and are quitting. Otherwise, agriculture, an industry in crisis, was singled out for particularly severe impact. Consultation with farmers failed. Fifty million dollars per year in grants and contributions are being removed. The cost recovery program of \$33 million is still in place, and is being added to by a cost recovery program for the Grain Commission. Cuts in transportation subsidies are being increased. There is no mortgage relief, no agri-bonds, no Section 31 relief for part-time farmers. Research is a low priority. Crop insurance assistance is being cut back. There is an increase of two cents per litre in energy cost which is not rebatable. There is a general increase of 1 per cent in excise tax on all farm inputs.

Rural Canada, which sent many Members to form the Conservative majority, has been betrayed again. Farmers out there planting today know that they are being squeezed once more by the Government.

* * *

● (1110)

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

BENEFITS ACCRUING FROM BUDGET

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, while I am sure that Members would claim that their ridings are ideal spots for the establishment of research and development companies, I can say without any hesitation that I believe the riding of Sarnia-Lambton to be ideally suited to take advantage of the Budget's generous R and D provisions.

The Budget's refund of 100 per cent of the tax credit on the first \$2 million of qualifying R and D will undoubtedly bring about the establishment of many new R and D firms and the increased R and D commitment of many other firms throughout Canada and, in particular, in my riding, which already has a significant R and D base.

This important provision will serve a twofold purpose. First, it will result in the creation of a number of small R and D businesses and, second, it will bring about an increased Canadian participation in the international high technology field. This relatively simple provision will create jobs, utilize Canada's abundant brainpower, and expand Canada's role in the high-tech field.