

One of the most important measures announced in the national energy program is a \$4 billion economic development fund for the west. The Government of Canada recognizes that all of Canada benefits when its regions prosper, and since the west has the resource base to support unprecedented prosperity, one objective of the national energy program is to help transform this potential into reality.

It is anticipated that this money will be used for a number of infrastructure improvements, in particular for the early upgrading of the railroad system and for the improvement of ports to enhance the access of western Canadian products to world markets. The details of these expenditures, Mr. Speaker, will be worked out by the federal government in consultation with the four western provinces in recognition of the need to foster a harmonious, co-operative relationship between all governments in Canada.

In conclusion, I should like to return to a comment I made earlier with respect to the people of Cape Breton. I said that they were good Canadians. What does that mean, Mr. Speaker? These are not words that I use lightly. Fundamental to the concept of being a good Canadian, I believe, is the idea of sharing. What, after all, has held this country together for the last 113 years, if not a generosity of spirit and a willingness to share? It has been said many times that Canada is composed of a diversity of peoples, with differing ideas, aspirations, and needs. Throughout our history we have witnessed the difficulty with which such a wonderful mixture becomes, and remains, one nation. It is testimony to the generosity of spirit and good will of Canadians, Mr. Speaker, that we have reached the state we enjoy today—one of undoubted prosperity and tremendous prospects for the future.

This is not to gloss over the strains that are evident in recent years in confederation; it is, however, to call attention to the positive side of being Canadian—that about which we can be very proud but that which is rarely mentioned nowadays—our national characteristic of sharing.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the strength of this budget is the fact that it embodies the concept of sharing. It is fitting that the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance introduced this particular budget at this time in our history. It recognizes that Canada needs strong regions; therefore, policies directed toward those regions are designed to ensure that they remain strong. But it also recognizes, Mr. Speaker, that our ultimate goal and aim as Canadians are to have all regions strong. It therefore contains so many commendable policies—some of which I have outlined—that I urge all hon. members from all political parties to support this budget.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Murray Cardiff (Huron-Bruce):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad of the opportunity to participate in this budget debate, particularly since I was among those members denied an opportunity to speak when the constitution was being discussed. The budget brought down last Tuesday, like the constitutional measure debated the week before, is an enormous deception launched upon the public to the accompaniment of

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great advertising—paid for by the taxpayers who are being deceived, with their own money. It distorts the true nature and impact of both the constitutional plans and the budgetary plans of the government. I want to take the opportunity now, Mr. Speaker, to speak for the concerns of my own riding, and to register dismay at the measures this House is being asked to approve.

I would note at the outset that my riding rejected the campaign promises of the Liberal party last February, wisely, as it turns out, because almost every promise of substance has been betrayed in this House in the past two weeks. I do not suppose for a moment, Mr. Speaker, that the voters of my riding elected me solely on my own account. I campaigned on the Crosbie budget. The voters of Huron-Bruce knew it and voted for it. We do not like high energy prices, but we accepted that they were necessary and we understood that the Crosbie budget had faced necessity honestly and squarely.

Huron-Bruce, Mr. Speaker, is a largely rural constituency lying along the shores of Lake Huron in southwestern Ontario. At one time the finest wheat in the world was grown in this part of Ontario; it was the breadbasket of the British empire. We no longer grow wheat in such a significant way because the enormous plains of western Canada have opened up new and bountiful wheatlands which contribute to the wealth of all Canadians. But we have no resentment that the west is now Canada's leading wheat region, for we have adapted and moved with the times. We now produce other crops and we have, by and large, thrived.

Our largest single crop now is corn for livestock feed, because Bruce county is Ontario's largest producer of beef, and Huron county is second. These two counties also are the largest producers of barley in Ontario, and among the leading producers of mixed grains. Apart from producing our own calves, we also use our excellent grasslands to finish western cattle for market, producing the distinctive flavour in beef for which the grasslands of this part of Ontario are particularly suited, and supplying Canadian tables with the lowest priced beef in the world.

But our agricultural economy is very mixed. Over half a million hogs were marketed from this area last year, as well as some \$20 million worth of poultry, and \$40 million worth of dairy produce. We also have our specialty crops. This year, Huron county, which is Canada's largest grower of white beans, produced about \$40 million worth of these beans, the vast majority of the crop being exported and thus contributing to Canada's balance of trade.

There are also many vigorous towns in Huron-Bruce: Hensall, in the south, with its large elevator complexes, is a shipping centre for produce of many sorts. Brussels, in the centre, is the home of stockyards which are among the liveliest in the province. In the northeast the village of Formosa, famous for a century as the home of the famous Formosa springs and still remembered in Ontario for the quality of the beer produced using its waters, is now home to a new trout farming industry which will serve the restaurant industry of Ontario and its homes.