

*Excise Tax Act*

back the date for the realization of this target to the year 2000. This time it has cut its commitment once again. It announced a \$1.8 billion reduction in foreign expenditures over the next five years. This includes a \$400 million cut from 1989-90.

• (2300)

It does not take an economist or a university professor to see the link between poverty, suffering, and conflict. There are countries that are being pushed so hard to pay back their loans or to fight for the very land that provides their sustenance that they have to literally trade the food they grow for arms so that they can trade the arms for money or use the arms to protect the land to grow their food.

Instead of making it easier for those countries by continuing support in foreign aid so that they can make the structural adjustments necessary to get their economies back on track, we cut back and say: "When times are better, we will give you more". Try to tell the mother of a starving child that today her child will not eat, or the child will probably not eat tomorrow. We cannot guarantee that that child will ever have any food in his or her mouth.

The world is getting smaller because of the information age that we as western nations have led the world into. There is no going back to living as a country in isolation. We cannot ignore what is going on around us. We cannot continue to pretend that what goes on does not affect us. It does. It affects us every time we turn on the radio or the television.

This Government has proven time and time again that it cannot be trusted. It has not once lived up to its pre-election, election, or post-election promises. The Government has been indulging in double-speak; it states one thing and does something directly opposite. The latest opinion polls dropping the Tories to their lowest level since the November, 1988 election are giving the Government a clear message: be open in the information to Canadians. They will not accept the Government's hidden agendas. Be above board, forget the hidden taxes, forget the hidden agendas but, above all, to have the trust of Canadians the Government must learn the golden rule that we all learned in elementary school that honesty is the best policy.

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, in commenting on Bill C-20, I want to take us back to the Budget of which Bill C-20 is a very small portion, although it is as bad as other portions in this very unsavoury Conservative Budget. I also want to look beyond the Budget to the pre-election period and the promises the Conservatives made to Canadians, and why they made those promises in the context of the Canada-U.S. trade deal.

It is important to look at these Budget measures from the point of view of people such as those in my constituency of Vancouver East. Those people are struggling hard to raise their families or to find a job, many of them being unemployed, and they certainly do not represent the wealthy and powerful people of this country.

I also want to point out how the Tory Budget impacts on all regions of Canada. I want to summarize how the Budget hurts families, and how it is drastically cutting services which are needed and expected and are the right of families and individuals across Canada. These services are a federal responsibility. I also want to discuss what the impact will be on affordable housing. I also wish to discuss the measures that are hitting workers particularly hard by cutting back on unemployment insurance benefits that are attacked in the Budget.

It is important to see Bill C-20 in the context of the Budget. It is the worst Budget that we have ever had in the history of Canada. Let us set the stage first by recalling the promises that were made by the Government as it attempted to woo the voters of Canada to re-elect it. They were false promises which we now have evidence of as we look at the promises that were broken and have been proven in the Budget. Remember the promises, Mr. Speaker?

There was the promise that our programs and services were a sacred trust, and universality is sacrosanct, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said. Of course, he has proceeded to undermine universal family allowances and old age pensions. He stated that the trade deal would not cost jobs. In fact, thousands of jobs would be created. As the Minister of Trade has been questioned in the House we have heard over and over again that the Minister cannot come up with any evidence of all the jobs that have been created that can be attributable to the trade deal. In fact, many people have lost jobs. In my riding of