

Council on Social Development, the National Council of Welfare, have spoken out. Conservative back-benchers have spoken out, and I salute those back-benchers.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nunziata: For having the guts.

Mr. Tobin: Then there were the Quebec National Assembly, the Manitoba Conservative Party, Maritime Premiers, the New Brunswick Senior Citizens' Federation, Ontario Senior Citizen Groups, the Quebec Golden Age Association and the Ontario Federation of Students who have spoken out. All of these people in society with diverse and different interests who came at this Budget from a different personal perspective have spoken with one voice in rejecting a move that would say to our fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers that they ought to bear the cost, that they ought to bear the brunt of balancing the books, of setting up a fiscal regime that pleases the stockbrokers' mentality but ignores the reality that a Budget is about people and not about a stockbroker's report.

I warn this Government. We have put a motion down. We have asked that immediately, not tomorrow, not next week, not next month, not maybe next year but immediately, because the Government has lost the battle, it be gracious and accept that it has lost the battle. Immediately put an end to the uncertainty, immediately put an end to the kind of worry a man or woman who sits in his or her apartment or cottage has about deindexation.

I spoke to a senior citizen in Corner Brook. He said, "My son, I am 82 years old. I have \$100 worth of discretionary income a month. Do you know what that \$100 is for, my son? Do you know what it is for after I pay my rent, my heat, my light? I buy some groceries, but I also need to have money to give to the church because I support the church. I also need a few dollars to buy a few cards and gifts for my friends who are sick and who are ailing, because they expect that. When I was in the hospital and sick they came to me with a basket of fruit or a card. I need to have a few dollars to get the bus to K-Mart to get a few groceries. Stamps are going up. I like to write my children. They are all over Canada. They all have good jobs, Mr. Tobin. I am so proud and I try and stay in touch with them. That is what I use my \$100 for".

I do not want that old man sitting in his apartment wondering when, if and how it becomes politically convenient for the Government to do what it has already decided to do, to back away from this program. I do not want him to spend the next seven or eight months wondering if he will have the price of a stamp after 1986 to write to his son or daughter who has gone to Alberta, British Columbia or Ottawa. Nobody in this House wants that. Not any Member on any side of the House. That is why I say to Members opposite that this motion is not a motion of condemnation. It is not a motion of non-confidence. It is not a motion that asks for the head of the Minister of Finance. It is a motion of confidence in Canadians, in their sense of justice and in their sense of sharing.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Supply

Mr. Tobin: It is a rare chance for us as Members—and seniors one day we will be, God bless us all, hopefully—to begin practising today the central thrust of the reform committee. It is a chance for us, as recommended by the Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), to begin to vote in the House of Commons as Members of Parliament, questioning our consciences, listening to our constituents and doing what we know is right. I have no monopoly on my concerns. The NDP has no monopoly. In fact, none of us has any monopoly on concern or appreciation for senior citizens. I appeal to Hon. Members opposite today to join us in supporting this motion.

● (1125)

As I said earlier, I warn the Government not to come forward with a solution which begins a back-door exercise to erode universality or with a solution which double indexes the GIS, because that is a back-door attack on universality. That is not acceptable to the Liberal Party. That is not acceptable to many Members of the House. The eyes of the people of Canada are upon us today. They are watching us. They are weighing our words. They will see how we are counted this day in Parliament. I warn Hon. Members that we had better not try their patience too far.

I should like to reflect upon the comments of Mr. Fisher last night on television. He said that he really did not need the OAS and was not too concerned. I tell Mr. Fisher that I will survive this Budget. My income is sufficient that I will survive. I am OK, Jack. Mr. Fisher has already told us that he will survive this Budget. His income is OK. He is OK, Jack. However, my 85-year-old grandfather, Jack Tobin, will not. He worked 49 years as a millwright, he paid into his company's pension plan and now he receives a little cheque which will not put bread on his table, let alone butter. He needs that OAS. Even though I will survive and others may survive this Budget, my grandfather is counting on me as a Member of Parliament to speak in my place today. He is also counting on others who may be OK themselves and may survive this Budget to speak for him. Without any more fanfare, I invite Hon. Members to consult—and I know that you really do not need to—and do what their consciences tell and invite them to do and that justice demands that they do, that is, support the motion today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for London West (Mr. Hockin) on a question or comment.

Mr. Hockin: Mr. Speaker, I rise to pose some questions to the Hon. Member with the utmost seriousness, because my riding has a larger than average number of retired people, larger than the national average by about 20 per cent. My constituency office is located in the middle of about 20 large facilities for retired Canadians. This issue has been a concern of my Party, and of course of mine, for many years. We have discussed it intensely for the last few months.