

### *The Budget*

I know that every step we take in the long walk ahead of us has been made possible because of the work done by our foremothers and forefathers. In my riding women make up 64 per cent of the population over 75. This is a thriving community of women who are vital and spirited. Their contributions to Burlington have been many and varied and they continue to act as advisers, educators and role models.

I am honoured to be able to take footsteps beside those of such unique people as Jean Galloway, Burlington's citizen of the year for 1993. At 73 years of age, a mother, grandmother and volunteer extraordinaire, Jean was the founder of the Society for Animal Aid. She works for Meals-on-Wheels, the Red Cross and is one of Burlington's foremost lobbyists for improvements in our community.

In sharing their life experiences with their families and friends, the older women of Burlington have given a voice to something which has often been silenced; the value of women and the work they have done both inside and outside of their homes. Indeed, their lives are rich and multifaceted.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the older women of Burlington and of Canada for their contributions to society which oftentimes have been overlooked. We must learn from our elders, both women and men, and rebuild our economy in an economically viable manner.

Together with all Canadians the government will draw up the blueprints for that rebuilding. This budget is the first edition.

I am pleased to be able to work with my constituents and with this House to bring Canada into the 21st century, into an era of equality for all citizens in Canada and in the world. I hope that all members of this House will join with me in this walk into our future.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pierre de Savoye (Portneuf):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the speech made by the hon. member from the Liberal Party. She praised the entrepreneurship of some of her constituents, and I think that, indeed, we must all pay tribute to the entrepreneurs in our respective ridings, right across the country.

The hon. member also referred to the elderly. I have a great concern about seniors, and this budget only makes it worse. I want to tell the hon. member about it, so that she can give me her own opinion.

Seniors receive a federal pension. However, those whose income is higher than \$29,000 will now have to pay back a portion of that pension. As you know, quite often these people bought a property many years ago. It was a small property at the time, and it was affordable. Sometimes, the value of that property increased rather considerably over the years, and so

much the better. However, property taxes represent an additional fiscal burden for these elderly people, who are now going to be deprived of part of their pension.

I think the government is looking in the wrong place to find money which it could get elsewhere, including from those businesses which benefit from a number of tax shelters, particularly abroad, which I find totally unacceptable. I would appreciate it if the hon. member could comment.

**Ms. Torsney:** Mr. Speaker, I think all levels of government must work together for the benefit of all Canadians. It is necessary to review taxes at the municipal level as well as here—

[*English*]

—at the federal government and the provincial government levels and to make sure that we are not having a double hit on all our constituents. Sometimes it is a triple and a quadruple hit in Ontario with regional government.

● (1720)

I am pleased that the government was able to protect for 75 per cent of the senior citizens in this country the age tax credit. I have heard from many seniors that they are concerned about being knocked into the next level and losing that exemption. However, many people have said to me that they too want to share in rebuilding our economy and pay their fair share. Many people recognize that this country needs a lot of work on our deficit.

I think we have made some positive moves in terms of protecting the age tax credit for 75 per cent of the seniors in this country. We have a lot of work to do with the other levels of government in making sure that we are not harming seniors and others in our population. Together we can work on this.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Laurent Lavigne (Beauharnois—Salaberry):** Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to our nice colleague on the right, and I would like to make a few comments to her.

I found her speech nice and well presented, except that I do not find in the budget, which she calls the budget of the century, the super budget, any funds that will help mothers with children, especially those who are single parents, when it comes to child care. When the government opposite was on this side of the House and was the Official Opposition, the present Deputy Prime Minister fought to have the government invest in day care—I remember her words. There is nothing for it in this budget. There is nothing for social housing either. We know the huge needs for social housing and we find practically nothing about it in this budget.

I feel that they have tried to solve the present economic problem by attacking the unemployed instead of unemployment.