

*The Budget—Mr. Garneau*

now, after nearly three years of Conservative Government, than it was during the 1982 economic recession.

Mr. Speaker, the statement the Minister of Finance just made, and I say statement because I can hardly call this a Budget, is a statement without vision. It is a statement that totally ignores the realities of this country.

[English]

This is a Budget without vision. This is a Budget which does not address any of the real problems which Canadians have to face. Fifteen days ago when the Minister of Finance announced that with this Budget there would be no tax reform, I said that the Budget would be a go-nowhere-and-do-nothing Budget.

**An Hon. Member:** Right on.

**Mr. Garneau:** I do not think, as my colleague has just said, that I was right on. I made a mistake. It is worse than I thought it was going to be. Not only did the Minister increase taxes for the third year in a row, but he did not announce any program, any budgetary measure, to try to solve the problem which exists between the rich and the poor of this country. He did not try to solve the problem of the regions of this country where the rate of unemployment is higher today than it was during the height of the world recession which we suffered in 1982.

This is not a Budget. It is a disgrace to call this paper a Budget. I would like to ask the Minister why he put us through this charade. He could have issued, as he has done on many occasions, a press release to announce an increase in taxes for people who buy gasoline, another cent a litre increase, after the three cent increase he announced in his last Budget. This could have been announced through a press release, and a Ways and Means Motion could have been tabled in the House.

I think it is a real disgrace that the Government did not use the opportunity to table a real Budget, a Budget with a vision, one which will take into consideration the problems which Canadians face, particularly in our regions. I think the Minister missed a very good opportunity. This exercise is not worth the time we have spent this afternoon. I think the Minister should have stayed home and issued a press release.

We have these documents with the Budget, and I see no projection of revenue, no projection of the rate of interest, and no projection of employment. We have only the figures for the fiscal year 1987-88. I am sure all Hon. Members, particularly those who have been Members of Parliament for a number of years, have heard the Tories asking the former Government to table a five-year plan. I recall the former Minister of Finance, the present Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie), when he was in the Opposition, asking the Government to table a five-year plan. This is what the Liberal Government decided to do. This Minister of Finance did not bother to give this information. We do not even know what he thinks the price of oil will be in 1988. He only gave us the price of oil for 1987.

What we have is not a Budget. I was expecting that at least the Minister would keep the promises he made last year. Last year the Minister made three promises: first, that we would have tax reform this year; second, that we would have a reform in our social programs; and, third, that he would bring the deficit under \$30 billion. The Minister today is telling us that the deficit will be \$32 billion for 1986-87. If the Minister had not sold Teleglobe, the deficit would have been higher this year than it was for the last complete year of the Liberal administration, even after four years of economic recovery, and after a tax increase of \$6 billion last year. And there will be more increases this year. The deficit of the Tory Government for the year 1986-87 would have been higher than the deficit of 1985-84, which was the last complete year of the Liberal administration. That is a real shame. The Minister is not delivering on his target of reducing the deficit.

[Translation]

The Minister of Finance has failed to live up to his commitment because the deficit would be higher, almost at the same level this year as it was for the last full year of the Liberal administration. There is no program, no improvement in social programs as he had promised last year.

And the tax reform, Mr. Speaker, now I really thought the Minister of Finance was a serious and responsible man. But he is juggling with facts. He is deceiving himself and, worse still, he is trying to make Canadians believe that this Government is serious.

What is the Government strategy, Mr. Speaker? Very simple. Taxes increased by several billion dollars in 1985 and again in 1986. Automatic tax increases have been incorporated in the tax laws so that this year Canadian taxpayers have paid, will pay during the next fiscal year when the Budget stands at \$43 billion, 48 per cent more, in personal income taxes than the last year under a Liberal administration. Yes 48 per cent.

Taxes went up by \$6 billion last year, 90 per cent paid by individuals, less than 10 per cent by corporations. The Minister of Finance is talking about tax reform. What is he going to do? First he raised taxes, then he will tell us that the reform will correct his own mistakes. I think the whole thing is a joke.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing in this Budget for the farmers or for western wheat producers. There is nothing for the fishermen who are now faced with the consequences of the agreement that was signed with France. Nothing has been done to deal with our energy problems. Just imagine, Mr. Speaker: The price of gas will have gone up 4 cents a litre since this Government came to power, and we don't even have a national energy policy. These are the same people who criticized the previous administration for increasing the price of gas to help create a fund that would help the energy industry. They kept the tax and increased it four times, but they have nothing for the energy industry.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing either to implement the formal commitment made by the Prime Minister (Mr.