

Member of Parliament, Mr. Speaker, I prefer to look for short term ways of helping people out of the dire straits they are in, through no fault of their own, rather than blaming the various mining companies in my area. But what answer do I get? Each time I call for extra funds to help people, either through additional mobility grants, mortgage compensation for house depreciation or total loss in real estate value, what answer do I get from officials, and often from ministers? That there is a financial problem, that there is not enough money. Mr. Speaker, the member for Manicouagan has a duty to press the ministers to find funds, even if it means increasing the deficit, to help people out of their trouble. But it is very easy for the other side to suggest that money is wasted. I believe the Leader of the Opposition is very well aware, since we worked together for solutions to help workers, that the government has a responsibility to the people who are hurting in those areas. What I often dislike in the speeches of Official Opposition members is that they always go along these lines: any operation showing a deficit must be left to the government and all profitable concerns are for the private sector only. That is just not good enough, Mr. Speaker! It is ironic that businessmen we meet have the tendency to continually ask for help from the government when the going gets rough; they keep asking for all sorts of grants. However, as soon as the situation improves, they readily claim they are overburdened with taxes. Mr. Speaker, one must face the facts, and take good care of the various elements in the Canadian society. The government's role is to ensure that the private sector can function within a free market ruled by the supply and demand law. But the government has also a responsibility to distribute the wealth amongst citizens of this country. The role of the State is not to substitute for private business, but to create a favourable climate for trade and business. That is the role of government: to create a healthy state of affairs in the economy, in order to generate wealth and, in turn, to ensure a wise distribution of this wealth amongst all citizens. And the budget brought forward by the Minister of Finance exactly meets these expectations, Mr. Speaker. One must have daily contacts with citizens to understand what individual needs really are. Mr. Speaker, senior citizens have also been adversely hit by the economic crisis, and they need support from the government; and moneys provided in this regard through all kinds of indexed benefits within the pension system are certainly not excessive, considering the hard work these people have invested over the years to build this country.

Mr. Speaker, one cannot deny that it is important and indeed essential to address the problems of youth, to provide jobs to our young. However, it is equally important to provide for the well being of our elders who have enabled us to enjoy the standard of living we have achieved. It is normal to have special consideration for those people and to take specific measures in favour of that group of citizens.

The Budget—Mr. Maltais

Mr. Speaker, a visit to any home for the elderly is all one needs to realize just how important an additional \$10, \$15 or \$25 a week can be to enable them to make ends meet, particularly keeping in mind the extent of rising costs in the past three of five years.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, we are not motivated only by compassion when we adjust old age pensions, we are simply assuming our social responsibilities and ensuring that those people get a fair share of our wealth.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a remote area and we could use additional airports. For five years now, I have been trying to bring English television service to a small village such as Tékaska, and invariably I have been met with near indifference, allegedly because there are not even 500 residents in that small village. CRTC regulations deny cable television to those people, so that a typically English-speaking community is serviced only by French television. That is an injustice! Yes, an injustice!

Mr. Speaker, I think that I will have to bring more pressure to bear on the Minister of Communications to have the Department of Communications or the CRTC change those regulations, so that the small community of Tékaska can have English television.

Between Sept-Îles and Blanc-Sablon, Mr. Speaker, there are about fifteen small communities which are anxiously awaiting development, and young people return to their place of origin in increasing numbers to regain control over the administration and the economy of those communities. I think that, in all fairness, we must support and help them become the economic fulcrum of the Middle and Lower North Shore. There are not only empty words, Mr. Speaker. I have been their Member for four or five years and I know that over \$30 million have been spent in that region which perhaps are not producing quite as much as they can. However, I am convinced that it will be a resource-producing region for Quebec and the rest of Canada within a few years. That is why I have accepted the Canadian Challenge, I want to help those people. The same thing can be said about other cities in the North, Mr. Speaker, their outlook is promising indeed!

We could have accomplished a lot more had we been more logical in the past by carrying out worthwhile research projects and processing programs, and if mining companies, governments and universities had combined their efforts.

Before my allotted time expires, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say simply that I will vote in favour of this Budget. There are still many things that I would have liked to say about Manicouagan, which I regard as a Canadian microcosm on account of its ethnic and economic make-up. However, in spite of all our present economic woes, I believe that we must not entertain a negative attitude vis-à-vis the budgetary proposals but rather that it is time to be positive and ensure a true economic recovery in such areas. Here, in Toronto and in Montreal, an economic recovery is certainly underway. We are