

The Budget

● (1730)

Mr. Finlay: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of my hon. colleague. I am glad that he found some of the comments about Oxford interesting.

With respect to the budget and his very appropriate question, we must not forget that this budget cuts \$5 in spending for every \$1 it takes in through taxes or other payments.

I agree that the Canadian people do not want any more taxes. I said that they wanted a tax system that is equitable and in which those that can pay their fair share. I do not think this budget goes as far in this regard as it can. I remind the hon. member that the matter of family trusts is being taken up by a committee and that there are other changes that the finance minister pointed out would be dealt with in future.

[Translation]

Mr. Ghislain Lebel (Chambly): Mr. Speaker, I speak out against what the hon. member opposite said about duplication being the provinces' fault. It has been more than 50 years since he attended high school and he needs a refresher course.

I wonder if the sharing of constitutional jurisdiction has any meaning for him. Originally, four provinces agreed to share certain powers, but never ever did they think that they would give up their own powers which belonged to them and which they needed for their own development within the Canadian Confederation. So there is something wrong with that.

If there is duplication, it is because the federal government has always been meddling. The provinces did not meddle in the national defence of Canada, the provinces did not meddle in foreign trade. It is downright wrong. We have been hearing that since this morning, so we should set the record straight.

As for job creation, 99 per cent of Canadian businesses have fewer than four employees. There are 1,114,000 self-employed people who work for their own business; that is not a lot. They play with figures to suggest that taxes for those people will be reduced from 28 to 12 per cent, when in reality their tax rate is 12 per cent. Those people have an awful time making ends meet.

Does the minister know that while he was telling us such nonsense, the national debt is costing us \$75,000 a minute, and for the four or five minutes he took to tell us such rubbish, we are some \$275,000 worse off than when he started to speak? He should be aware of that.

[English]

Mr. Finlay: Mr. Speaker, I think there were three or four questions there. There were a couple at the start. I might remind my hon. friend that while death and taxes may be sure, the other sure thing in this world is change.

When the Constitution was written we were not flying across the ocean in six hours. We were not flying from the capital to

Vancouver in four and a half hours. We were not picking up the telephone and calling our offices at home. There was no such thing as electronics, fibre optics and a lot of other things we now have. The Constitution did a good job in those days for what people knew.

I suggest to my hon. friend that he has to keep up with the times. We have the problem of airlines and telecommunications. These things need new approaches.

Mr. Bernie Collins (Souris—Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague from Oxford for his maiden speech. It was very well done and certainly very timely in this Chamber.

As I rise this afternoon to place some comments before this House with regard to the budget of the finance minister, I think that it is a credit to the people of Canada that they elected the government they did that keeps its promises.

● (1735)

Within four months every single item we proposed in the red book has been met or budgeted for. I can tell my constituents in Souris—Moose Mountain that there are no new taxes. For farmers and small business in my riding, it is good news. They were concerned over the \$500,000 capital gains provision, that it not be touched.

For many farmers their farms are their pension plans. The exemption is a legitimate means of financial security. This budget is an investment in the future of Canada. It is fair, it is pragmatic and it is progressively oriented.

I was very pleased that agriculture was given careful consideration in this budget. Again the citizens of Souris—Moose Mountain are greatly affected by the agricultural industry. Every livelihood in our riding is affected by it.

It therefore pleases me very much to see that many programs affecting the industry were kept in place. The people of Souris—Moose Mountain are responsible and they are compassionate people. They want to contribute their share to this country, to the reduction of the deficit and to the development of our economy. They are willing to shoulder their share of the burden. However, they want to know that the contribution they make is handled responsibly by this government.

That is what pleases me about this budget. It is a balanced responsible approach to problems of the future. We are reducing the deficit while stimulating jobs. We are supporting those in need while closing loopholes and eliminating waste. We are putting our own house in order, just what my constituents asked us to do.

In that same spirit of co-operation and contribution my constituents are saying to me with respect to agriculture that they will make their contribution but we should handle things responsibly, guard the industry from disaster and collapse.