

the benefit of all of Canada. There is no such thing as government money.

An interesting comparison is the Unemployment Insurance Commission which is actually a smaller version of the Government. Working people allow deductions from their pay every week to be turned over to the Unemployment Insurance Commission in trust to be redistributed to people who are not working, people who need safety nets, people who need help. This is the same as the federal Government's budget but on a smaller scale. Day after day and week after week opposition Members state that unemployed people pay the premiums on unemployment insurance. I disagree with that. It is the employed people and employers who pay the premiums. Inasmuch as we have an obligation to unemployed people, we also have an obligation to the people who pay the premiums year after year. Many people who pay premiums for their entire working life never draw on unemployment insurance. So we have an obligation to put those funds to their best use in supplying a safety net for people who need it the most, and in providing facilities for people to get out of the cycle of unemployment. That is exactly what this Government is trying to do.

Getting back to the Budget, I believe it is a Budget of responsibility, and I believe Canadian people want responsibility in fiscal management. Before we discuss any aspect of the Budget, I think we have to answer the first question: Is the status quo acceptable to Canadians? Is it acceptable to have a national debt of \$330,000 million? Is it acceptable to add \$30,000 million or \$40,000 million to the debt every year? I think not. It is not acceptable to be paying 35 cents out of every tax dollar of interest on our national debt and I am sure the public agrees.

As complicated as the issue is, the public have gotten to the bottom of it and they understand the issue. They agree that the Budget must address the debt and the deficit. That is exactly what this Budget does. It is a broadly based approach to reduce the deficit and eventually reduce the debt. It is a broadly based approach, but it focuses on large corporations, high income earners. Certainly that is very clear in the Budget.

During the last two weekends since the Budget was announced, I made it a point to talk to as many people in my riding as I could. We are not a rich riding. We are a rural riding more than anything. I have gone to auctions,

rural meetings, town meetings. I have talked to academics, farmers, businessmen and accountants to find out their reactions. It is amazing how unanimous the reaction is. It is tough and no one is going to enjoy it, but everyone right across the board acknowledged that it is needed and it is fair.

The media in my riding have also supported it. A really good example is an editorial in *The Amherst Daily News*, which in its first and last paragraph says it all. The man who wrote this article, the day before the last election wrote an editorial in the same paper telling the people in my riding to vote for absolutely anyone but the Conservative candidate. The title of the editorial is "Tough, but Fair", and the first paragraph states:

Finance Minister Michael Wilson and indeed the entire Mulroney administration are to be hailed for their courage in presenting what surely qualifies as not only the toughest, but also the most necessary federal Budget in Canada's history.

I will read the last paragraph:

The important thing is that the Mulroney Government has taken a good first step on the road that will eventually lead to the elimination of the country's staggering debt, and that is the best possible gift the Government can give to future generations.

I could not have said it better myself.

This speech took 20 minutes when I wrote it, but it is not taking 20 minutes now. But finally, I want to say the vast majority of people in my riding and in Canada understand the problem we have to face. They accept their role in reducing the deficit if we as a Government act responsibly and display that responsibility in the form of good fiscal management. The fact is that I think Canadians have faith that our Finance Minister will set a course and stay on that course to eliminate the deficit and that he will keep on that course until the goal is met.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Leeds—Grenville on a question or comment.

Mr. Jordan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my colleague who said, if I understood him correctly, that this is the first time he has risen in the House of Commons. I congratulate him on his comments.

I have a couple of simple questions that I would like to put to him. It has been repeated several times in the House that 31 cents of every dollar are now going to allay the cumulative debt. Can he tell me how much of each dollar was going to allay that debt last October 30? Has it