

*The Budget—Mr. Langdon*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I will recognize the Hon. Member for Ottawa West (Mr. Daubney) on a short question or comment, and then we will resume debate.

● (1730)

**Mr. Daubney:** Mr. Speaker, I listened with care to the remarks of the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon) for whom I had, or at least until today, a certain amount of respect. Having heard his remarks I felt I should quote from the article which I have just read in this month's *Saturday Night*, the headline of which reads:

Steven Langdon, the NDP critic on industry and free trade, knows everything about the economy except how to make it work.

That has a certain ring of accuracy to it. Let me quote a brief excerpt from the article which is written by Robert Fulford for *Saturday Night*, a journal which is not known to support the Conservative Party:

The major problem of Langdon and his fellow New Democrats—is that their party's political culture remains profoundly anti-business. They live in a society whose wealth depends on business, yet they take no pleasure or satisfaction from the success of business.

The Budget we heard last night talked about the success of business and the success of the economic management which the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) has brought to this nation's affairs. Does the Hon. Member not realize that his constituents rely on that success, that the people in the Windsor area need the kind of economic leadership the Government is giving them? Does the Hon. Member not realize that he does not speak for the people of Essex—Windsor when he speaks in his kind of trivial, anti-intellectual and very disappointing way about the Budget. The Budget is an important document. It is an important record of a very successful two and a half years of economic management.

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, I take it that the hon. gentleman did not enjoy the speech. Let me say two things in response. First, this was a speech about the Budget which I fear—perhaps the Hon. Member has not had a chance to read it yet—not only has nothing in it but was boasted about by the Minister of Finance because it has nothing in it.

With respect to the second point and our supposed anti-business philosophy, I make only the point that what we have been saying about this Budget and its do-nothing character is precisely what my friends in the business community have been saying as well. When we chatted outside last night at the scrum we each looked for words which could be more perjorative with respect to a Budget which came in and did not, at a time of tremendous difficulty for the private sector as demonstrated by those decreased investment levels, do anything to try to pick up this country up, to put more money into the hands of the ordinary person and get Canada moving again, very much with the support of business, but very much with the leadership of Government.

[Translation]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Resuming debate. The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Champagne).

**Mr. Michel Champagne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture):** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. At last, I could say. First of all, before getting into the gist of my remarks, I want to say that my hon. colleague from Ottawa-West (Mr. Daubney) is perfectly right when he says that our New Democrat colleague knows nothing about the economy, and that the Hon. Member next to him does not understand anything either. Anyway, I wonder to what extent a Member of the NDP can understand the Canadian economy because he has no idea of what it is to be in power. NDP members know nothing at all. The only thing they can do—yes, it's true, Mr. Speaker, they are good at one thing: criticism, criticism, criticism. It is about the only word they know and I encourage them to keep on in that direction because then they will always be in the opposition.

Mr. Speaker, unlike my colleague from Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart), I am very proud to rise today to take part in the debate on the budget that was tabled yesterday by our excellent Minister of Finance, the Hon. Michael Wilson. Mr. Speaker, this is first and foremost a budget that is one more step in the direction that the Progressive Conservative Government has taken since it came to power on September 4, 1984, a budget that essentially deals with the economic and social future of Canada through the creation of permanent jobs, lowering of interest rates, reduction of deficit, control of inflation and national reconciliation.

Mr. Speaker, since September 4, 1984, we are talking about these goals and we are achieving them. We are achieving them because our Government, under the enlightened direction of our Prime Minister, has been listening to the Canadian people, has given to our Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) a clear and specific mandate to put the Canadian economy back on its feet. If you look at statistics, they speak for themselves, and I do not think this is partisanship.

If you look at interest rates, they were at 12 percent in 1984 when our Party took power. They are down to about 7 percent today. That is moral responsibility shown by Progressive Conservative Government.

As for inflation, we were able to keep it at about 4 per cent. This has increased the purchasing power of many Canadians and particularly the less privileged. Here again, our Government has shown political and moral responsibility.

The people in my riding of Champlain know what mortgage rates mean. They suffered enough when these rates reached a level of 20 to 22 per cent in the 80's. Do you realize how disastrous these rates were for our economy and for hundreds of thousands of families who had to sell their houses, to give up their hopes to buy one or even stopped contributing positively to the Canadian economy because of a lack of financial means? This immoral situation was created by a Liberal