

*The Budget—Mr. N. Lapointe*

as would have been the case under the Progressive Conservative budget.

**An hon. Member:** That is social justice!

**Mr. Lapointe (Beauce):** Mr. Speaker, I am not disappointed with this budget, and I think that numbers of my Beauce constituents feel exactly the way I do. The Liberal party has not hurt low-income Canadians. I am no tax expert, but I have enough critical sense to realize that this budget speech benefits our less fortunate taxpayers. Mr. Speaker, before the budget was presented, the people I met in my constituency would ask me whether the tax increases would be significant. I must say that I am happy to report to them that the Minister of Finance has thought of them, that he has ordered no income tax increase, and that he has maintained the indexation system, contrary to what a great many opposition members had predicted.

**An hon. Member:** It is a tax reduction.

**Mr. Lapointe (Beauce):** Among the various types of fiscal means used, the Liberal government provided several, such as the tax reductions for multiple unit residential buildings, the extension of the small business development bond program, which will bring happiness to the small and medium-sized businesses in my riding who will use them to finance their equipment at a reasonable cost. As far as my riding is concerned, Mr. Speaker, it will surely make everybody happy, because, as I said at the beginning, Beauce still is, and I do not want to repeat myself, the riding with the greater number of small and medium-sized businesses.

Another proposal about which I am enthusiastic, even though it does not concern my area where small business dominates, is the investment tax credit of up to 50 per cent for industries wishing to establish themselves in the poorer areas in Canada and where there is high unemployment and low income families. I recognize here the good work of my friend, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. De Bané), to whom I give credit for his spirit of fairness. His smooth collaboration with the Minister of Finance proved that the national government was particularly concerned with the regional disparities in this country.

**An hon. Member:** Liberal policy!

**Mr. Lapointe (Beauce):** On the other hand, some farmers in my riding complained to me, last weekend, that the government had not included any measure to help them. It is true that the farming community has not received particular attention in this budget, but we must realize that by dealing primarily with the middle-term energy problem, the government will ease the lot of farmers who will be able to take advantage of lower energy costs.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding this first speech of mine, I would like to say how proud I am to belong to a party which has seriously dealt with our first priority nowadays, which is energy, while giving middle and low-income families a breathing spell, because they will not have to face higher oil prices or major tax increases. My government has also devised efficient economic assistance programs to provide Canadians with the necessary means to withstand the effects of the present economic conditions.

● (2010)

[English]

**Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough):** Mr. Speaker, in a few moments I will address some of the points made by the hon. member for the Liberal Party who spoke earlier. I will deal with his contentions that 'farmers will benefit', 'people will accept moderate price hikes' and 'there are no massive increases in taxes'.

What I am most concerned about in this session of Parliament is that the Liberal government is attempting to put into place the means to create a socialist republic of Canada. It intends to impose this plan initially through the budget and in concert with the national energy plan and the patriation of the constitution. Its primary short-term goal is to remove from the oil producing provinces their principal source of revenue, their energy royalties and transfer them to the federal government. It is transferring exploration and recovery incentives to Canada lands, which, significantly, include offshore regions, and more revenue from oil and gas will thus accrue to the federal government. It is reducing by 12 per cent the share of the oil companies, who are already leaving for the United States and other parts of the world. This is in the Liberal government's interests. Indeed, they propose to decrease incentives and subsidies to companies that have minority Canadian ownership interests, which will lower their market value and thus make a takeover bid by the federal government through the Canadian ownership account easier in the future. At the same time the Liberal government, through these measures, seeks to increase its proportion of oil and gas revenue by taking revenue away from the provinces.

As nationalization of oil companies located, for example, in Alberta, increases, provincial revenues decrease because federal oil companies do not have to pay provincial royalties no matter where they are located. Consequently, the federal Liberal government is determined to nationalize the Canadian oil industry by 1990. The immense price to pay for this—it will cost about \$10.5 billion to buy just one firm—will be borne directly by the people through the Canadian ownership account.

The proposals contained in this budget seek to change the fundamental nature of our entire country. They seek to perpetrate an irrevocable shift in the relationship between the two levels of government in Canada. They seek to take advantage of the westward economic and demographic trends in this country in two ways. First, by removing the initiatives and awards of such shifts from the western centres to the benefit of