

Supply

This budget reduces the size of government. That is important to Canadian women. Canadian women want their rights not to be overburdened by enhanced bureaucracy. The government does that.

These are the fundamental rights for women. The right to secure social programs guaranteed by the budget's austerity; by the budget's responsibility; by the budget's adherence to ethical financial principles. It just enhances our ability to fund our social programs.

This budget enhances women's right to work. The budget enhances women's right to fair taxation. The budget enhances women's right to decent accommodation, to access to the housing market. The budget enhances women's right to assistance for those who need it. The budget also enhances the right of all of us, men and women equally, not to be overburdened by government.

The budget realizes that social problems cannot be solved by throwing money at them, especially money that we do not have, that has to be borrowed and then has to be repaid through higher taxes in the future.

It is not in women's best interests to have high tax and high spending. Canadian women are no different from Canadian men in that regard. We all want taxes to be lower to have more money in our own pockets and more money for our families.

Let me conclude by saying this final point. I am sure there are a number of Canadian women who have been watching this debate and who have found it offensive.

Members of the opposition would have us believe through their speeches that all Canadian women are poor, disadvantaged, or victims of society. They would have us believe that women are not entrepreneurial, that they do not share an interest in the economy, that they need to be propped-up, supported, helped and assisted, and that they have extra government money and programs devoted to them.

Not all women are clients of food banks or trapped in cycles of poverty. A lot of women are successful. They run their families in a very reasonable way. They hold responsible jobs in private and public sectors. There are many women who would be insulted by being lumped in with visible minorities and disabled. There are a lot of women who want this House to know that they are

proud, self-sufficient Canadians who are contributors to society and who support the budget of 1992.

Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing): Mr. Speaker, if I could just ask the member who just spoke to substantiate his contention that this is a good budget for women, that in fact it will help women in the work place and help women in their ability to access adequate housing and so on.

Would he indicate how women could possibly be assisted in the work place by the resolution in this budget of putting the last nail in the coffin of the national child care system in Canada? How does that help women in the work place particularly after the comments of the Prime Minister in 1988 and many other times about how important and critical child care is for women to be able to access the employment market.

I presume on the basis of the comments he just made that he disagrees with the Prime Minister's contention about the importance of child care in the work place.

How could finally deciding not to have a national child care system help women in the work place? How could the decision to ignore a Human Rights Tribunal decision, should it rule against the government on pay equity in the civil service, help women in the work place?

On those two matters, how could the budget help women in the work place? It seems to be a very contorted view of this. Certainly from the comments of women on this side of the House and women from outside groups, it would seem to be hard to sustain.

With regard to the government's final decision to renege on its promise to increase co-operative housing to 5,000 units a year, how will ending the Co-operative Housing Program help women in the housing market?

Mr. Turner (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, I think the budget attempts to address some fundamentals in society, rather than throwing money at some social problems as a temporary solution.

The budget tries to find more permanent and viable solutions to some of our social problems. In terms of child care, the government has decided not to proceed with financing child care. The simplest and most effective answer to how that will benefit Canadian women is that in order to implement the child care program, it was estimated that the Government of Canada would have had to find roughly \$3 billion a year to finance it.