

them, and be a prominent part of the work force when they graduate.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, there are 1.5 million Canadians who would call this government, in spite of what the minister says, heartless and cruel.

When we look at the cuts to the Canadian Jobs Strategy, the real dollar cuts in the Industrial Research Assistance Program and the granting councils, when we look at cuts in other knowledge based programs, was not the real reason the Science Council was killed that the Science Council was going to say, in addition to this government being cruel and heartless, that it was stupid? But the Canadian people are not.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I think the Canadian people can see through the empty rhetoric in a question like that.

The Canadian people are looking for the substance that is in the budget of my colleague, the Minister of Finance. That addresses many of the questions which have been put forward in the community based program, the community based consultations on the prosperity initiative. People were looking for precisely the response that the Minister of Finance gave in this budget in order to create jobs and create a stronger economy for the present and the future.

* * *

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Mr. A. H. Harry Brightwell (Perth—Wellington—Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications.

As of March 1, small community weekly newspapers will be subject to commercial postal rates. In 1991 the minister postponed scheduled postal increases until March 1, 1992.

Given the importance of these weeklies to their local communities, and indeed I have eight weeklies serving my riding, does the minister have plans to provide any kind of further relief to these publications?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend mentions, last year we

announced a one-year delay in the new increases in postal rates for community weeklies. During that time we have taken advantage of the opportunity presented to us to meet with the Canadian Community Newspaper Association to deal with issues related to rates and other problems that community newspapers are having in Canada.

I am pleased to be able to inform my hon. friend that the government today will be announcing a decrease of some 50 per cent for a one-year period for these rates for small community newspapers.

In addition to that, weeklies excluded from Canada Post rate code 2 by virtue of their being located within regional municipalities will also become eligible for these concessionary postal rates. Some 430 small community newspapers across Canada will benefit from this.

* * *

THE BUDGET

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

Close to one million Canadian families work hard to make ends meet on incomes between \$30,000 and \$50,000 each year. Like the poor, they are finding times very tough. Yet for these working couples the minister can only offer \$4 a month more under the proposed child tax benefit.

How can the minister stand in this House and suggest that \$4 a month will in any way help these families provide their children with proper food, clothing and medicine?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hon. member's question and I clearly understand the difficulties that families are facing.

A combination of the reduction in the surtax in this budget and the improvements in the child benefit package that my colleague the Minister of National Health and Welfare has announced means a family with two children earning \$50,000 and a single earner will save \$280 a year. A two-earner family earning \$50,000 will save \$240 a year. A single parent with two children earning \$50,000 will save \$394 a year.