

The Budget—Mr. Tobin

help first those who need most. Our gas prices will be lower than those proposed by the hon. member for St. John's West, and so will home heating costs. Further savings in home heating costs will be experienced by those who take advantage of the government's grants under both the super-retrofit program and CHIP. As well, Canadians will be able to keep pace with inflation because of full indexing. We have stuck to our commitments.

I should like to add as well that we have introduced a measure in particular for my part of the world, and for all parts of Canada where unemployment is high. It will create jobs in this country. Our budget introduces the 50 per cent investment tax credit for selected capital projects in areas of high unemployment. This is a dramatic step taken by the government to provide more jobs in those areas most in need. The program has been highly praised, for example, by Mr. Harvey Webber, president of the Atlantic Canada Plus Association. He views the tax credit as:

An important step to self-reliance and a chance in a lifetime to expand our manufacturing and processing industries.

I am happy to say that, from all indications, practically my whole riding will be eligible for this 50 per cent tax investment credit.

● (1750)

As well, the government is providing—and this is an important measure for Newfoundland—an equity contribution of up to \$200 million to support hydro development on the lower Churchill River in Labrador. As well, the government will provide credit support to ensure that debt financing for the development can be obtained at acceptable rates. The hydro development in Labrador means a great deal to the people of my riding, the people of Newfoundland, and particularly the people of Labrador.

At the present time 40 per cent of Newfoundland's electric power comes from expensive oil-fired electricity plants. Oil consumption by the Holyrood power plant near St. John's will cost the people of Newfoundland \$50 million this year at the subsidized rate. When the lower Churchill hydro development comes on stream, Newfoundland will immediately be able to shut down the oil-fired plant and will no longer be dependent upon costly oil for the generation of electricity. That power is brought down to help, first, the people of Newfoundland. Also Newfoundland will benefit financially from the exporting of some of the power generated from the lower Churchill development. But I say again that the power should be developed first for the benefit of Labradorians and Newfoundlanders. I realize the details will have to be worked out by the premier of our province, Premier Peckford, in consultation with the federal government.

Following on that line of thought there is another matter on which I want to set the record straight before taking my seat. The government and the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau) have said time and time again that the Government of Canada will take whatever measures are necessary to ensure that when new Labrador hydro power comes on stream, my

province will be able to move that power across the province of Quebec to our markets. Despite what some provincial politicians are saying, that is the commitment of the government, the commitment of the Prime Minister of Canada, and the commitment I give to my constituents in Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe. The ball is now in Premier Peckford's court. It is up to the Premier of Newfoundland and his government, with the financial assistance of the federal government, to find markets for Labrador power in our own province and elsewhere, and to bring a solid proposal to the Government of Canada. The people of Newfoundland have had enough words and constant partisan political bickering. I say in good conscience to Premier Peckford, it is time to show some good will; let us cut out the rhetoric and get on with the job together.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, listening to the hon. member who has just resumed his seat reminded me of the preacher who happened to leave his notes on the pulpit after the service was over. Someone glanced at them and saw the words, "argument weak, yell loudly". That is what came to my mind when I listened to the hon. member for Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin). Apparently he believes what he said because he endeavoured in the best way possible to substantiate his arguments, but in actual fact I think they leave a great deal to be desired.

In preparing for participation in this debate I was reminded of the opening words of a delgate from Samoa to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Jamaica some years ago. He opened his speech with these words:

Following the custom in my country, I would first want to thank our heavenly Father for His goodness.

Perhaps it would be well for us to realize and acknowledge that, in comparison to the needs of many, many people around the world, Canada has been signally blessed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Patterson: I am sure many people who have come to us from other parts of the world would give witness to that fact as well.

Just a few days ago I noticed on the front page of the *Ottawa Citizen* a reference to one of the families brought into this country because of the serious problems in southeast Asia. This family was hardly able to grasp the fact that there could be so much to enjoy in a country. They could hardly believe the goods available as they walked up and down the streets. The friendliness of the people was such that it caused them to stand in amazement and wonderment that there was a place in the world as good as Canada.

The fact we are now discussing serious and urgent problems cannot be blamed upon an unkind providence. But I believe they are the result of our inability to devise a system which would enable society to develop and utilize our abundance for the common good. Canada is uniquely blessed and endowed with vast reservoirs of natural resources, manpower which is