

existed in 1985–86, the first full year of Tory administration.

This government is not only bent on destroying the economy of the country, it is also bent on destroying aboriginal organizations which have become, in the government's opinion, too critical of the current administration. Funding cuts to the Secretary of State's budget have been focused primarily on aboriginal organizations. Never has a budget had a more devastating impact on one group. The government has chosen to attack aboriginal organizations because it cannot stand to hear how dismal its record has been in this area.

One has to wonder why one department with a total budget of \$3.5 billion has chosen to attack the aboriginal peoples of Canada. The Secretary of State has to cut \$23 million from his budget. In reality, when you subtract last December's increase to the department of \$13 million the Secretary of State only needs to cut \$10 million. Native aboriginal communication societies are hit hardest. Cutbacks to these organizations represent 65 per cent of the Secretary of State's budget cuts. Is this fair? Of course it is not. The government has chosen to eliminate the one program which has served to inform aboriginal Canadians of this government's inadequate handling of aboriginal issues. This government has in effect silenced the aboriginal people.

In my riding, Wawatay Native Communications Society operates a bilingual newspaper, community radio and television stations and a high-frequency trail radio program for trappers. It currently has a staff of 45 people to cover all of the aboriginal communities in northern Ontario, many of which are remote and isolated.

As a result of the elimination of the native communications program and a cut-back in the northern native broadcast access program, Wawatay will lose 33 per cent of its funding from the Secretary of State. Twenty jobs will be lost and Wawatay's award-winning newspaper will most likely become a unilingual English publication. The high-frequency trail radio program will most likely be eliminated.

Native newspapers in this country have contributed to a large degree to the preservation of aboriginal languages. Bilingual newspapers such as *Wawatay News* have protected aboriginal languages from extinction.

The Budget

Native newspaper publications have also contributed to the preservation of a very unique and distinct culture by publishing a record of aboriginal traditions and customs. Such a record will ensure that these traditions and customs are not lost.

Aboriginal communications societies have made a significant contribution to literacy. Many more aboriginal Canadians are literate today, thanks to native newspapers. This government has bragged about Canada's participation in this year's International Year of Literacy. In my view this government should be ashamed of its contribution.

This Tory government is attempting to destroy aboriginal peoples. This Tory government believes the aboriginal peoples are a thorn in its side. It believes that aboriginal peoples will just go away if funding is cut off.

Canada's aboriginal peoples are living in Third World conditions. Government members often say that I am exaggerating. I have seen these conditions in which some of our aboriginal people live. I challenge members to visit a native community and see the poverty, despair, drug and alcohol abuse, high unemployment, high rates of suicide and violence. Once they have seen these Third World conditions right here in Canada maybe members will understand why it infuriates aboriginal organizations when their funding is cut or eliminated. Funding for aboriginal organizations is crucial to improving these conditions.

The cut-backs in the provinces' transfer payments used for post-secondary education and health care is a direct attack on social programs in this country. Capping increases in Canada Assistance Plan transfers to Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta is an attack on low income Canadians in these provinces. The Minister of Finance has left the provinces with virtually few options—increase taxes or cut services. Students will be forced to pay higher costs toward education. Seniors who are the main recipients of health care in this country will feel the pinch in reduced services. Low-income Canadians will see their already inadequate quality of life eroded even further.

To say the least, one way or another, Canadians will once again be faced with increased taxes as a result of this budget. Whether it be the goods and services tax, the taxation measures from the 1989 budget which came into