

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The Minister says that he has been consulting and listening. It has taken eight and a half months for him to bring down this Budget, the longest time it has taken in modern Canadian history. Today the Prime Minister said that he thought that the Budget was generally regarded as a helpful document for the economy.

To whom has the Prime Minister been listening? To whom has the Minister been listening? It sure wasn't Lesley Silver of the Social Planning Council of Ottawa-Carleton who said:

This Budget is a strong step in the direction of entrenching inequality . . . In fact, a de-indexing of Old Age Security will mean the poorest of the elderly—those living on incomes comprised solely of OAS and GIS—will suffer a 1 per cent reduction in real income.

He didn't listen to Sally Hall, President of the Consumers' Association of Canada, who said that middle-income earners are going to be hit hardest and that the consumer is going to have less money. Nor did he listen to representatives of labour. Dennis McDermott has said that the Budget:

—studiously ignores labour . . . there is a violation of their election promise to get the country working again—

He went on to say:

This is a Budget of continuing recession. There is no hope out there.

James McCambly, President of the Canadian Federation of Labour, said that the \$125,000 capital gains tax bonanza for the rich means:

—high income people will get off scot-free but middle income and average wage earners are going to get hit.

He didn't listen to Cliff Pilkey, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour, who said:

—the unemployed people of Canada have been betrayed.

Nor did he listen to the President of the Canadian Ship Building and Ship Repairing Association who said of the Budget:

Our worst fears have happened and all the promises (made by P.C. politicians during the 1984 election campaign) have been abandoned.

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Nor did he listen to the Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, who said:

It was a pretty depressing message . . . It will help farmers sell and get out of farming, but there was little to help them stay in business . . . There was nothing that dealt with the issues that we raised with them and nothing that had been promised in the federal election proposals.

Nor did he listen to the Secretary-Treasurer of the B.C. and Yukon Building Trades Council, who said:

Once again we have a federal Budget designed to make ordinary wage earners and the unemployed pay to meet the never-ending demand for increased profits from speculators and major corporations.

Did he listen to the 13 member Canadian Council of Churches and Citizens for Public Justice? They said:

In fact, the Budget will deepen poverty in Canada. Changes in the federal sales tax, for example, are regressive and mean additional tax costs for poor families.

The Budget—Mr. J. N. Turner

We do not know to whom the Minister has been talking and where he got the idea that people think it is fair to attack middle and lower income groups. I am outraged that the Minister would dare to say that I agreed with his over-all approach to capital gains exemptions for the rich. Not only is the measure unfair, but put together with the tax increase for the average Canadian it will not work for the purposes which he says it will work. It will not be invested in Canadian small business.

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Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): It is great for real estate in Florida, buying a race horse in Kentucky, or a hotel in Hong Kong, but it will not put a cent into Canadian business. When I asked the Minister why the exemption was not limited to Canadian businesses, he said:

—if we put those rules into the tax system it would result in a tremendously complex tax system . . . people would be able to find ways around it.

What a pathetic excuse. What a sad and sorry abdication of ministerial responsibility. The Minister of Finance said that the Budget was about jobs. That is pretty rhetorical, but the truth is that there is nothing in the Budget which will create jobs. It will not even create training, as it has cut \$100 million from training programs.

On CTV's *Question Period*, May 25, the Minister said that it was:

—a very slight amount less money spent on job training—

I have said that budgets are not just graphs, jobs or projections. Budgets are about human beings. An economy only works if people are at work. A budget is only successful if people can find meaningful employment, educate their children and provide for their retirement.

[*Translation*]

A Budget is not just the sum of a column of figures or a series of graphs. A Budget is people. It deals with men and women and families across the country. A Budget concerns our way of life, the careers of your young people, the future of our children. This Budget, however, is not a Budget of hope, it is not a Budget of jobs, it does not have the confidence of Canadian men and women.

[*English*]

The sad thing is that the people of Canada honestly believed that the Prime Minister meant it when he said the priority would be jobs, jobs, jobs. They believed him when he said that social programs were a sacred trust. They believed him when he said that the economy could be made to grow, that prosperity was just around the corner and that the unemployed would be put to work. They believed him when he said that the poor would not suffer. They believed him when he said that the elderly would live in dignity. He said the Government would be fair, but the first Budget, the first opportunity the Government had to demonstrate what it really means for Canadians, where its heart really is, and the first chance it had to demonstrate that fairness is something which counts, is an