• (1650)

[*Translation*]

We must say that this is a bad Budget. Canadians are being asked to tighten their belts to reduce the deficit, but it is still going up to $30.5 billion this year.

[*English*]

The end does not justify the means. The end is not happening. We are not reducing the deficit; we are increasing it. The means are aimed at the wrong people.

Mr. McDermid: There were a number of issues raised in the Hon. Member's speech that I could debate at great length, but I will just mention a few of them. Let us start with the Post Office.

The Post Office this year will show a very slight profit. Four years ago the taxpayers of this country were paying a $400 million grant to the Post Office. Eighty per cent of their business comes from business, so it was an indirect grant to business. Now the Post Office is at a break–even position. That is saving the taxpayers' money.

The Hon. Member opposite makes it sound like the little guy pays the taxes at the municipal and provincial levels and somewhere in Canada there is a great big money tree where all this money comes from. The Hon. Member talked about energy and megaprojects and says that at today's current prices these are not economical. In the same breath, her energy critic is saying that we are not planning for energy self–sufficiency down the road. These megaprojects do not come on at the turn of a switch. They take years to bring onstream. The Hon. Member for Newfoundland knows that full well. I want him to stand up today and tell us that we should stop, cut off, and forget about the oil development fields, Hibernia and Newfoundland. No! He knows that we must go through this process so that down the road, when energy sources are running out, we have a plan. Is the Hon. Member opposed to that? I want to ask her that.

My next question would be on the lumber agreement. The Ontario Government had a windfall of some $50 million off the 15 per cent lumber tax in the last year and a half. Has the Hon. Member opposite made representation to Premier Peterson to take that windfall money and reinvest it in the lumber industry in northern Ontario?

Mrs. Marleau: Do you know what I am for? I am for telling the truth. Where was the Hon. Minister during the campaign? He did not tell the people of Canada what would happen. When we were debating the free trade bill, where was the Minister? Was he telling the people of Canada that we were selling out our energy supplies in the long run to the Americans?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Marleau: He did not.

Mr. Tobin: I know all Members of the House, regardless of their political stripe, would join me in congratulating the Member for Sudbury (Mrs. Marleau) for an excellent presentation to the House today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: The great passion that was evident in her remarks, the great skill with which she made her points, the way in which she stood up not for the vested interests of the corporate towers of Canada but for the interests of ordinary Canadians is to be commended. We do not see enough of it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: I want to say in posing my question to my colleague from Sudbury that I thought she went directly into the heart of the matter when she pointed out to our friend, the chartered accountant across the way, who said: "I have examined the deficit and the debt and these brutal measures that go beyond cutting into the skin, through the meat, down into the bone, and sucking the marrow out of the collective life of Canada. I have examined this Budget, and I want to tell you that these cuts are in order because the debt is indeed severe". The Member from Sudbury got to the heart of the matter when the Member opposite said the issue is not what the size of the debt is. We know the Tories have doubled the debt. The issue is why did you not tell the truth during the election campaign?

The Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie) is like some new creature that crawled out of the primordial ooze and discovered something called the "deficit". For the first time during the election we had a Minister of Finance, a Prime Minister, and a Minister for International Trade who said: "Every nickel has been accounted for. The deficit is under control. These $17 billion in promises are not a problem at all".

Last November the Conservative Party said: "If you vote for us, we will give you $4 billion for day care. If you vote for us, we won't cut unemployment insurance. If you vote for us, social programs will be sacrosanct and protected. If you vote for us, we will not cut regional development". And when they get elected, they cut every damned one of them. I ask my colleague from Sudbury, is that violation of the public trust not far worse than a violation of Budget secrecy? Should this crowd not resign?