

Our argument to the House, the Minister, the Prime Minister and the country is that the Budget is not fair and Canadians will not accept it. We in the Liberal Party do not accept it. It is an enormous betrayal of trust of Canadians, and I undertake to Canadians that we will fight this measure and the Budget at every step, in every legitimate way the House of Commons permits us, even under the reformed rules.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Redway: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am sure that rather than hiding behind the rules which prohibit the asking of questions and making of comments at this time, the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues would certainly consent to giving unanimous consent to the House for questions and comments at this time.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. If the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) will come and do the same thing for us, we will accept.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is no unanimous consent.

Mr. Redway: It sounds like unanimous consent.

Mr. Gauthier: If you get the Prime Minister here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is no unanimous consent. The Hon. Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Oberle) on debate.

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to join the debate on the 1986 Budget. Naturally, I am tempted to engage with the right hon. gentleman who just spoke in the intellectual acrobatics which we have just witnessed. He referred to me as a friend a couple of times in his speech and I return the compliment. I have known him for some time and he is not a bad guy when one meets him in private.

As a matter of fact, he and I were once stranded at a fishing hole and he fell in.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): If it had not been for my fish and my box of matches—

Mr. Oberle: It would have been a close call, Mr. Speaker. I want to say to him: "John, you just fell in again". The Right Hon. Member stated this afternoon that: "We play all kinds of games around here".

Let me suggest to him that we on this side of the House are finished playing games with the lives of Canadians.

I could talk about the record of the right hon. gentleman when he was Minister of Finance for 43 months, I believe. He increased the public debt from \$18 billion to \$36 billion.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): That is wrong, Frank. You have the wrong numbers.

The Budget—Mr. Oberle

Mr. Oberle: He is the architect and father of the legacy that this Government inherited in September, 1984.

Let me spend some time dealing with the Budget and the Government's policy on science and technology. The Budget introduced a wide ranging agenda for economic growth, economic renewal and job creation. It pointed out that research and development and the advancement of science may be one of the keys that we will need to unlock the future for Canadians and achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves.

In fact, Canada's role in the 21st century may well be determined by what we do today and in the next five to ten years in the area of science and research and development.

There are serious obstacles in our way. We have a \$225 billion debt today on which we are paying interest every year. Just as we are confronted with an urgent need to catch up with other nations that have gained an edge on us in some very important strategic technologies, we are strapped to a legacy of the past that has compelled us to impose upon ourselves a fiscal discipline to which we are committed.

Canadians can be proud of our past record of achievement. We have never spent as much as some of the more advanced industrial nations in research and development because of other priorities, yet we excelled in some select areas. It is a source of pride for Canadians to have been the third nation to enter into space and to be the first nation to have its own communication satellite. That was a priority for us because it was answering a need for Canadians to communicate with each other. Those of us who represent ridings in the North were shut out from the mainstream life in Canada and its culture because television came to the North 10 years after its introduction in the south. The Anik satellites brought the North into the Canadian mainstream.

Our aerospace industry, communications industry and nuclear industry have excelled. Our nuclear reactors are a source of pride to Canadians because they are still among the most efficient in the world. We have excelled in those areas where our efforts were directed toward our needs and built on our natural strengths.

However, we have fallen behind in those areas where we have ignored our natural strengths. In the year that the former Government was in power, we developed a trade deficit in high-tech goods of \$12 billion. In those areas where we developed a lead, 75 per cent of all the high-tech components manufactured in this country are exported in highly competitive markets. In fact, we are getting a better return on our high-tech trade than any other country in the world. However, at the same time we are importing 75 per cent of all high-tech components that go into our traditional industries, our resource industries. We are, Sir, the biggest wood-converting country in the world. We have the strongest mining sector and the finest agricultural sector in the world. Yet, 75 per cent of all the high tech components which go into these industries are imported from Sweden, the United States, Finland and Germany. We import whole sawmill systems from Germany, a country which has about as much timber as we have on Lyell Island. It has a fraction of the timber that we have in our