

Private Members' Business

revenue and social spending would have been reduced by \$1.24 billion. There is another way.

Turning to other areas, the government has completely abandoned child care and universality. Independence for the elderly as a principle has also been abandoned, as the previous member spoke about.

Community and regional fairness is another hallmark of what it is to be a country. The flag is not just fabric. It is what we weave together. It is how we make sure that a Canadian standard of service will be available in Newfoundland, Yukon or central Canada. There is no question that as the government has proposed block funding this is gone.

• (1725)

Sustainability of the environment is a very important area. Cutbacks to the environment are quite severe in the budget. I think they should be of concern to every Canadian. If we look at countries internationally, for example east bloc countries that ignored the environment to build their economies, we see that they are paying a dreadful price.

Similarly part of the social consensus of Canada has been that we are a country that respects human rights, the dignity of individuals and gender equality. It takes much more than words to achieve that.

In the abandoning of national standards and in the abandoning of a national vision the Liberal government is abandoning us to a balkanized and regionalized country, which will not stand up in good stead in international markets, as we discussed earlier.

[Translation]

Aspects that until now were considered essential to our society are no longer important. Children will not enjoy what we considered to be fundamental principles: they will have no national medicare, they will have no national railway linking communities across the country. Healthy and vigorous rural communities will be a thing of the past. They will not know what it is like to have good public services and a government for all Canadians.

[English]

In summary, the budget has failed the country. It is beginning to dismantle much of what was done to make the country first in the assessment of the United Nations or one of the best places in the world to live.

Mr. John Bryden (Hamilton—Wentworth, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleague from Yukon will agree that the budget is doing something unusual by proposing cuts to special interest groups.

One such special interest group that may be subject to cuts is the Canadian Labour Congress, which we learned this past week

is supporting the Quebec Federation of Labour in its campaign to support the separatist cause in Quebec. Some of the money the Quebec Federation of Labour is using is money that comes from the Canadian Labour Congress. It was about \$500,000 and in turn came from Ottawa and the labour education program that pays the CLC \$3 million a year.

In the past the CLC has spent \$1.5 million on supporting the NDP's election campaign, the biggest donor of any political party in the country.

Does my colleague from Yukon feel that cutting special interest groups with a political agenda not in keeping with the majority of the Canadian public is a good thing or a bad thing?

Ms. McLaughlin: Mr. Speaker, the member opposite has been strongly speaking out against what he calls special interest groups. I am not clear whether the member has been equally as strong in including in special interest groups the Business Council on National Issues, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Manufacturers Association. If he has, he will have done a service.

I object to his term special interest groups. It has now become a Reform Party slogan. Often it is used to marginalize people rather than to include them.

There is a place in a thriving democracy for different points of view to be presented vigorously. As a good Liberal I am sure he would agree that it is necessary to have a functioning democracy in which every part of society has the ability to participate in helping to shape public policy not just during an election but throughout.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): It being 5.30 p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[Translation]

GRAIN EXPORT PROTECTION ACT

The House resumed from November 24, 1994, consideration of the motion that Bill C-262, an act to provide for the settlement of labour disputes affecting the export of grain by arbitration and to amend the Public Service Staff Relations Act in consequence thereof, be read a second time and referred to a committee.

Mr. Paul Crête (Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to take part in the debate on this bill to providing for the settlement of labour disputes affecting the export of grain by arbitration and amend the Public Service Staff Relations Act in consequence thereof.