

*The Budget—Mr. Valcourt*

**Mr. Valcourt:** The finance critic for the Liberal Party may be muzzled by his colleagues but I think that he agrees with what this Government is doing. He talks about the increase in taxes. He asks the elitists. There are no elitists in my riding. We are all poor people. I met a gentleman during the weekend. I do not know his income but I believe he earns over \$100,000, maybe close to that, and he told me he was going to have to pay \$5,000 more in taxes next year on account of this Budget.

**An Hon. Member:** He was happy.

**Mr. Valcourt:** He does not mind. He knows that if Canada—

**An Hon. Member:** What is his name?

**Mr. Valcourt:** What is his name? I have too much respect for him to give it publicly but I will ask him and I will send you the name. I even know of another one who contributed a few bucks to my association because he was happy with the Budget. But I am not surprised that the Liberal Party does not understand and appreciate the real life that is taking place but Canadians out there do and they will approve of this Budget.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Saskatoon—Dundurn on a question or comment.

**Mr. Fisher:** Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker mentioned that on two occasions the Liberal Party has been defeated. I would suggest to the Hon. Member opposite that that also implies that the Conservatives have been elected twice. It is long past time that the Government opposite blamed anyone but itself for the economic problems this country is facing.

Since the Conservative Party was elected in 1984, the total federal deficit has doubled. It doubled in four years compared with the previous history of this country. Yet Members opposite stand there and blame Members on this side of the House, including the New Democratic Party, which they accuse of being socialist. I thank them for that because at least if nothing else the Member knows enough to call a spade a spade and a socialist a socialist, which is what we are.

**An Hon. Member:** The "S" word.

**Mr. Fisher:** The "S" word, yes. It is long past time when Members opposite can blame anyone else for the problems this nation is suffering except themselves. It wants solutions. There are solutions. Since the Conservatives were elected in 1984, the proportion of Government revenue from corporate tax has decreased from 15 per cent to 10.7 per cent. I would suggest that if the Conservatives were to put a little bit more fairness—and I stress little, because there was not much in it pre-

viously—back into the tax system, that some of the nation's problems would be alleviated as far as the financial mess is concerned.

I would also like to point out that as far back as 1962 the proportion of corporate tax was 26.1 per cent and the individual tax was a mere 34 per cent. It has now gone up to 57 per cent as of about six months ago, compared with 49.8 per cent when the Conservative Party was elected. Taxes for the individual in this country have gone up from 49.8 per cent to 57.7 per cent since the Conservatives were elected. That is taking tax revenue from the ordinary Canadian whose average earnings during that period of time decreased in real value by over 5 per cent.

**Mr. Valcourt:** How can the Hon. Member honestly stand up in this House and make that charge when the people in the socialist party claim to be so honest? He knows, if he cares to look at the facts, that what we inherited in 1984 was a debt that had risen from some \$18 billion to \$200 billion in 1984. What is dishonest and what I do not accept is a socialist standing up today telling us that we have let the debt go up in the last four years, when every single proposal made by this Government to reduce the deficit in the four previous years was opposed by every socialist. Every day in this House the socialists called for more spending. They think we grow money on trees. They are dreamers. They are dreamers who have no idea of what the reality is in this country. The socialists think that they can take—

**An Hon. Member:** Tax the poor.

**Mr. Valcourt:** These are the same people who were governing Manitoba. Along came the socialists in Manitoba. Look at what happened in Manitoba. Those poor Manitobans. All those poor people below the poverty line. What happened during those great years of socialist government? The people were worse off.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The last question or comment to the Member for Calgary Northeast (Mr. Kindy)

**Mr. Kindy:** Mr. Speaker, I have listened with interest to the Hon. Minister because I used to sit with him on the Justice Committee. I appreciate what he is saying but I have some problems with his numbers. In 1984, the deficit was around \$180 billion. The projections for 1989 are \$353 billion. The Auditor General has said that we might be short another \$30 billion that is not accounted for. This would almost raise the debt to \$380 billion. This is in five years. We have really doubled the deficit. I do not think this Budget really addresses the deficit and debt reduction. I am for debt reduction. I would like to see the deficit reduced but I think this Budget does not do it because we did not cut enough. This is my