

As to the Budget itself, I heard a Tory Minister say that everyone is against this Budget, that nobody likes it and therefore it must be a good Budget. What sort of bizarre reasoning is that? It could only be Tory reasoning that would suggest that this is logical. They are correct that everyone is against it. We have an unlikely ally in the director of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Roger Hamel, who says that this is the biggest tax grab in Canada's history. He is against the Budget, as are the Canadian Chamber Commerce, environmentalists, foresters, women's groups, the military, people involved in transport, the unemployed, the provincial Governments, New Democrats, and Liberals, although yesterday evening the provincial Liberals in Ontario added insult to injury. They are against the federal Budget, but indeed provincial Liberals in Ontario are certainly bringing to Ontarians the same thing the Conservative Government brought to the country federally.

I could list more and more groups *ad nauseam* that are against this Budget, but the bottom line is that Canadians are against it. If I could be parochial for just a few moments, how does it affect northern Ontario? Everyone will have to pay more tax, but in particular the middle class and the lower class group. It was suggested by one of the Members across the way that we have closed many of the tax loopholes. That begs the question: Why not close them all immediately?

• (1640)

The Canadian Ontario provincial forestry agreements will die. They are being bought out. I thank the Hon. Minister of State for Forestry for his efforts. I believe that he is convinced but helpless to do what he wants to do for the forests of the country.

The insidious sea lamprey will proliferate unless we immediately receive \$2 million to address the issue. One in three fish presently caught are already wounded by this parasite. I wonder how many have died. This is aggravated or complicated by the fact that millions are spent in stocking these very same waters.

Universality and the claw back on Old Age Security and family allowances have been attacked despite the Prime Minister's assurance that social programs would be enhanced by the ill-conceived, ill-negotiated, ill-

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contrived Free Trade Agreement. This was simply not true.

Sault Ste. Marie is a border city. Many people thought that they would benefit immediately from the Free Trade Agreement, that they could go into Michigan and buy many products at lower prices. This has obviously proven to be totally false. Grocery and food products would save each family \$200 a year. That has proven to be false. One of the great supporters, Galen Weston, has suggested that indeed food prices have to go up. That is another contradiction. I had best stop myself from getting into my free trade tirade and harangue. It has already been exposed for what it is worth—nothing.

The Budget gives us double indemnity. The Government got us coming and it got us going. The Budget is full of negatives and cut, cut, cut. There is not one positive initiative in the whole document. At least the Government could have taken one initiative and said: "All right, Canadians, we are cutting you everywhere, but we are going to give you one initiative". There was none. The one I continually espouse as a municipal affairs critic is: Why does the Government not take the one-cent increase in gasoline tax and the extra one cent in 1990 and give it to the municipalities whose infrastructure is crumbling? Those municipalities can ill afford to put a further tax burden on to the citizens in the municipalities. There was not one positive step in the whole Budget.

People in northern Ontario do not need regressive taxes. In fact, we do not need regressive taxes in Canada. We require assistance, but direct government assistance with little or no strings attached. There are no strings attached, but there are very large coarse ropes attached. I speak of some of the smoke and mirror programs that have been announced across the country.

For example, I wish to speak of the much touted Community Futures Program. There is a board of directors in my community that makes decisions about initiatives. If an initiative passes that board of directors, it goes to another board of directors in Thunder Bay. If it passes that board of directors, it goes to yet another board of directors in Sudbury. If it passes that board of directors, it must go to Toronto and to the southern Ontario board of directors. If it passes that board, it then comes to Ottawa.

**Mr. Lapierre:** How many Tories along the way?