

Borrowing Authority

behalf of the people of Canada. It causes one to reflect upon how the money is being spent, who is being helped, and who is being hurt.

One of the travesties of the process that we have seen since the Speech from the Throne is a tremendous loss of income, of livelihood, and of support systems in the Province of Manitoba and particularly in the City of Winnipeg.

I would point out that the best allegory and best image, when you think about what is happening in this Budget, is to think of the towns of Portage la Prairie and Churchill.

I have taken Churchill first. That is a community in a remote part of Canada. It is in the northern part of Manitoba. It has struggled against all odds for several decades to establish a financial base. The Government of Canada has gradually taken away one activity after another. The military has withdrawn, they have now withdrawn the satellite program, and they are about to withdraw VIA Rail service as we now know it. Then just recently they announced that wheat will not be shipped through the port again this summer. These are devastating blows which are often lost in the grand scheme of things in this country. It is about time that we as Members paid attention to communities such as Churchill.

Second and following up the previous speaker, my colleague from British Columbia, when he spoke about what was happening in Prince Edward Island, I can only add that that is the same story for Portage la Prairie.

It is a community which has been very proud of its military base. The role of the base is very well established in traditional Canadian military policy. It is a training base. The Government has reinvested in the last five years in its health facility, its runways and in all aspects of maintenance. It is a major contributor to the economy of Portage. We now have it removed. It is these particular acts that make people very saddened and very suspicious of government financing. They wonder why they are contributing their tax money.

Let me talk about the tax money that people have to contribute. Since 1984, the Mulroney Government has dramatically increased taxes on Canadian families and individuals.

With its recent Budget, families who are at or below the poverty line are being added to the tax roles while wealthier Canadians are facing minimal tax increases. While no one enjoys paying taxes, most people will support a system that is fair and equitable. Unfortunately, this Government insists on distributing the tax burden in an unfair manner.

In particular, I would like to point out what happened in my constituency, Winnipeg North Centre. As an example, a family living in a working class neighbourhood on Lipton Street with two working parents earning a total of \$23,639 this year and supporting two children will now face an additional tax burden of \$341. Since 1984, taxes have increased by \$1,553 for this family. This represents a total tax increase of 176.3 per cent. This is all since this Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) took office. A similar family with earnings of \$100,000 will only pay an increase of 10.9 per cent. This type of discrepancy in our tax system is leading to increased despair and anxiety among Canadians that their Government is not serving their interests.

There are also many single-parent families in Winnipeg North Centre who will now be paying taxes for the first time. A single parent with two children living in an apartment on Westminster Avenue and earning an income below the poverty line will now be paying \$147 in taxes when they did not have to pay any of that before. Under this Budget, tax increases for individuals will be six times the amount that taxes increase for corporations. There is a tremendous tax burden taking place right now in this country for working-class families and away from corporations.

We are often fond of talking about the fact that corporations are taxed, and I think that is quite correct. They are taxed very heavily. In reality, we ignore our greatest export. Our greatest export is profit, profit to other countries. We let that profit go out because the Government has no gumption, energy, or commitment to taxing the money that is leaving the country. It therefore is left to tax the people who can least afford it.

One of the difficulties we have in Manitoba is perhaps from a historical point of view one of the most damaging aspects to our representation of the Government. This is the first time in modern history that the City of Winnipeg has not been represented in a federal Cabinet. Gradually it is shown as the Members who supposedly represent our province fail to stand up one time after another. Our support for the borrowing bill is minimal simply because there are no benefits coming to Manitoba. In fact, local media accounts refer to it as both "the