

Message from the Senate

employment and immigration. But we know those things are not working because the Prime Minister said on August, 1986, as reported in *The Globe and Mail*:

A humble Prime Minister Brian Mulroney acknowledged last night that the Government has made its share of mistakes and has not yet found a way to allow Newfoundland to share in Canada's wealth.

"We've made mistakes as we shall—mistakes being made by men and women trying to do good for you," he told a partisan crowd of 1,500 people.

That admission by the Prime Minister that his policies are not working was made in August, Mr. Speaker. He reiterated it in October, 1986. And now we have the Budget and find that there is a 39 per cent decrease for the regional economic development envelope. There are no new programs. There are no new solutions being offered whatever.

I find it rather unsettling that members of the Government would rise in their places and extol the great virtues about the economy of Canada when we know that seven out of ten provinces have higher unemployment than before the recession of 1982. You can, therefore, understand my reasons for not supporting the Government in this particular venture, Mr. Speaker. I would have liked to do so if the Government had provided some real leadership in providing equal opportunity for Canadians regardless of where they may live. That is not to suggest that I, as an Atlantic Canadian, want to see the wealth of Ontario eroded at my expense. That is not what I am suggesting. What I am suggesting is that the wealth of Canada be shared and shared fairly. Those of us who represent ridings in the peripheral regions of Canada must have the same opportunities as other Canadians regardless of one's geographical birthplace. By the evidence of the Minister of Finance's Budget, that objective has not been met by the Government. That is why I will not be supporting the Government in its economic thrust in the tabling of its budgetary documents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions or comments?

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill C-12, an Act to amend the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act, without amendment.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that this House approves in general

the budgetary policy of the Government; and the amendment of Mr. Garneau (p. 3594).

Mr. Walter Van De Walle (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to participate in the budget debate and to speak to the people of Canada on behalf of the residents of the Pembina constituency. As an Albertan and a proud Canadian, I am honoured to represent the great constituency of Pembina.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the voters of Pembina who bestowed this great honour upon me. Over the years, as residents of Pembina, we have enjoyed remarkable representation and leadership by our elected members. No Member of this Chamber worked harder or more diligently than my predecessor, Peter Elzinga. As a member of the agricultural fraternity, I am especially pleased that he has been charged with the responsibility of serving as Alberta's Minister of Agriculture. I know that all Members of the House of Commons would want to join with me in extending our best wishes to Peter.

I would like to thank all those Members who so graciously welcomed me to this House and the members of the Alberta caucus for their excellent counsel. I would be remiss if I did not pay special tribute to our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) for his untiring support. It was during the Pembina by-election, when there were those who attempted to deny the Prime Minister and myself the right to freedom of speech, that he demonstrated to me what it takes to be a leader.

To my good friend, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) who encouraged me to seek the Conservative nomination, I extend my thanks for his continuing support and encouragement. All of this is comforting to me as a rookie Member of Parliament. I look forward to serving my constituents and working with my colleagues, the Members of the House of Commons, to build a better Canada.

In 1984, Canadians gave this Government a mandate to get the economy back on track. Albertans and, in fact, all Canadians, can give assent to this Government's accomplishments in taking control of federal spending; in taking a skyrocketing deficit of \$38 billion and in two short years reducing it by \$6 billion with an anticipated further decrease next year to \$29.3 billion. Interest rates have been reduced to less than half of what they were two and a half years ago. Inflation is under control. This Government is providing sound financial management.

However, there is the problem of regional disparity. While parts of Canada are flourishing, others are not. Alberta, with unemployment in excess of 12 per cent, is hurting. The February 18 Budget was not one of policy or sweeping change. Rather, it was a summation, an accounting of what our Government's actions have provided to date, a firm plateau from which we will meet the challenges of addressing regional disparity, economic renewal and tax reform.