the amounts that the people of Quebec will be receiving over the next five years.

• (1720)

They should not confuse their constituents by saying, as the member of the Bloc stated earlier, that they pay so much in income taxes to the federal treasury. I think the member said $28 billion or something and that they should have all of that back. They get all of that back and more under equalization.

Therefore, do not link the income tax being paid to the equalization entitlement. They are two separate issues. The equalization transfer is over and above all the other programs, services and fundings that are transferred to the province of Quebec.

I want to say, as someone from downtown Toronto, that to spend $100 billion over the next five years to keep Quebec feeling that it is part of Confederation, I personally would have absolutely no problem.

It was a very rough week for us in Toronto. We thought we were going to receive the centre for NAFTA for the environmental studies. We did not receive it but that is the game. You win some and you lose some. I guess my point is that I wish the members of the Bloc would show some of appreciation, not just to their constituents but to the people of Canada.

I realize that is just a little bit off topic from the budget amendment that we are discussing today but I thought it was relevant to the debate.

The part of the bill I would like to speak specifically to has to do with part IV, the borrowing authority of C–17. This is the section in the bill where—and I can see my friends in the Reform Party getting twitchy already—through the approval of the Minister of Finance, we are authorizing the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Radio–Canada, to a further borrowing power of $25 million.

I know that the members of the Reform Party have great difficulty with how we, when we are in such difficult times, could authorize for the CBC a further indebtedness or a further support of $25 million. I want to say to members on the other side that this is the right thing to do.

Mr. Harris: Say that with a straight face.

Mr. Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): I do say it with a straight face. As I was saying to one of our colleagues this morning, the CBC is really not like any other business in the country.

I do not know why I am defending the CBC because it has never been particularly good to me or for that matter to any other politician. It is one of those rare situations where we are defending an organization that is constantly attacking us. That is what makes this country so interesting.

Mr. Speaker, you signalled that I have only a couple of minutes. As we head into this very sensitive period where once again we will all be required to make sure that in the interest of national unity we bring our best foot forward, I really feel that it is important that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Radio–Canada—radio, television, Newsworld—have a solid footing and a solid organization. This is an institution, as I am sure most people in Canada would agree, that is probably the best binding agent we have in a communications instrument.

We hear from musicians in every region who might otherwise not get the opportunity to be heard on a national basis. As I mentioned earlier today in debate it is a high quality organization for communication and production. It is also a tremendous training ground.

• (1725)

This is one area where, when we analyse the balance sheet of the CBC, we have not given it proper credit. This has been an area where it has trained people who ultimately have gone on to produce on other TV networks and in the motion picture industry. They are high quality technicians. Many of them now are creating product that we are exporting around the world. It is giving us not only a presence in North America but a Canadian presence all over the world. For that reason I would urge all members to support this bill.

Mrs. Jan Brown (Calgary Southeast): Mr. Speaker, I really appreciated hearing the comments of the hon. member across the floor, especially when he talks about the have provinces of Canada and telling everyone here today that Alberta is one of those.

It is wonderful to come from a have province. But we are going through one of the most painful periods in our history right now as we have a deficit reduction program that affects every man, woman and child in Alberta.

I am very concerned about the fact that feel good money is going to a province such as Quebec. There is no vision within that province that includes all of Canada. It is very well defined within their own borders for them.

It was interesting for the hon. member to have drawn an analogy between this feel good money that will be going to Quebec at all costs just to keep them and embrace them. I would love it if they could make the choice for themselves to stay in this wonderful country of ours.

I am totally opposed to that $25 million support for the CBC. I would like the hon. member to explain to me how he can in all good faith support the spending authority when there is basically no plan attached to it. It is just a carte blanche gift of spending. I really would like him to comment on that.