

other goodies while in opposition, only to deliver just the opposite after they formed the government on May 22, 1979.

The party opposite is the party whose finance minister explained to the Canadian people that surely no one expected the PC party to live up to its election campaign promises. "Surely", explained the hon. member for St. John's West, once he had the heady taste of power—my God, I am beginning to sound like the Leader of the Opposition—"you did not honestly expect us to deliver on our promises and to keep our word." Well, hon. members opposite received the collective answer of the Canadian people on February 18. The people expected the Conservatives to keep their word. They trusted them once, but no more. The Canadian people made a wise choice on February 18, and the numbers show that.

Let us compare the so-called Crosbie budget to the MacEachen budget with respect to gasoline prices. The prices vary, of course, from province to province in accordance with provincial sales taxes. However, for this comparison I will use the base rate. At the end of 1981 the people of Canada would have been paying \$1.56 a gallon for gas under the Crosbie budget. Under the new budget they will only pay \$1.36 a gallon that is a saving of 20 cents a gallon in the first year alone. In the second year, at the end of 1982, the Crosbie budget would have pushed the price up to \$1.75 a gallon. Our projections now show that price at only \$1.53 a gallon that is a saving of 22 cents a gallon. But in 1983 the savings become even more dramatic. By the end of 1983 the Crosbie price for a gallon of gas would have risen to \$2.32 a gallon, and our projected price shows the price to be only \$1.71, that is, our price will save the people of Canada 61 cents a gallon. By the end of 1984 the Canadian people will be paying 68 cents less per gallon because of the MacEachen budget.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Under your budget we will be walking.

Mr. Tobin: My, oh my! Somebody throw some peanuts, please. I would much appreciate it because it would occupy the monkeys on the other side.

There will also be dramatic savings for the people of Canada in home heating oil prices. The projected base price for the consumer, under the Crosbie budget in 1984, would have been \$1.96 a gallon. Our proposal will see home heating oil cost at a maximum of \$1.51 a gallon, or a saving of 45 cents per gallon for the people of this country.

Under our budget and the national energy program, several programs and initiatives are introduced which will greatly benefit the people in my constituency, the people of Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe, and the people of Newfoundland in general. In terms of their personal taxes, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador welcome the announcement of the Minister of Finance of full indexing on their 1981 income tax. This indexing of 9.8 per cent on the personal exemptions and tax bracket limits will ensure that lower and middle-income families will not be forced into higher tax brackets. This measure will provide substantial savings to all Canadian tax-

payers and will allow them to keep pace with the rise in the cost of living.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the full indexing will mean that in 1981 the basic personal exemption will increase by an additional \$280 to \$3,170, and the allowable exemptions for a typical family of four with two children under 18 will rise by \$630 to \$7,130. For example, a married person with two dependants under 18, with an income of \$11,000 in 1981, will save approximately \$179 because of full indexing, as opposed to an unindexed income.

I notice that hon. members opposite have become quiet. I can only assume that for the first time they cut out the rhetoric and are learning something. Perhaps they have acquired some appreciation of this budget which does as we promised. It helps those first who need help most.

In 1981 as well, Mr. Speaker, the child tax credit will provide even greater savings for Newfoundlanders. It will rise from \$238 per child in 1980 to \$261 per child in 1981. And, good news for all, the income threshold above which the child tax credit benefits are reduced also will rise from \$21,380 to \$23,470.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: This increase will ensure that a greater number of families in Newfoundland and elsewhere who need the tax credit most will continue to benefit. In Newfoundland, in 1978 for example, there were 81,113 claims for the child tax credit and the average claim was approximately \$433. In 1981, with the increases provided in our budget, the average claim in Newfoundland will rise to over \$500.

The national energy program introduced by our government will benefit Canadians right across the country, but it provides some special initiatives for the people in Newfoundland. Recognizing my province's dependence on oil, the government is attempting to lower consumption in the province by ensuring that oil is used in the most efficient way. Newfoundlanders will be eligible to apply for grants under the new super-retrofit program. By providing grants up to a maximum of \$800 to cover 50 per cent of the eligible costs, the government is urging Newfoundlanders to ensure that their homes are energy efficient. The moneys from this grant can be used to retrofit oil furnaces with devices which will mean lower consumption, and encourage further conservation with the use of additional insulation. In fact simply by retrofitting their oil furnaces with nozzles, retention heads and solenoid valves, the people of Newfoundland will be able to achieve 20 per cent savings in fuel.

On top of this Newfoundlanders will also be eligible for further grants under CHIP, providing them with grants of up to \$500 to assist them in insulating their homes. This government has ensured that more Canadians will benefit from CHIP by increasing the budget for the program from \$80 million annually to \$265 million annually.

As you can see, contrary to what hon. members opposite would like the people of Canada to believe, our budget does