

The Budget—Mr. Nystrom

[Translation]

But, Mr. Speaker, there is another attack in the Budget of the Minister of Finance, a budget reduction for Radio-Canada, the CBC.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Nystrom: He says hear, hear.

Mr. Della Noce: Yes, hear, hear.

Mr. Nystrom: The Hon. Member for Duvernay (Mr. Della Noce) says hear, hear. He is against Radio-Canada, he is against the CBC. Mr. Speaker, Radio-Canada and the CBC are a great Canadian institution which was established by the Conservative Party—his Party—a long time ago.

Mr. Speaker, next year, the budget will be cut by some 20 million dollars. Another 10 million will be cut the following year and yet another 10 million the year after. And in four years, there will be budget cuts of some 50 million dollars.

Radio-Canada and CBC are of tremendous importance for our culture and identity and for our national unity, in spite of what the Hon. Member from Duvernay (Mr. Della Noce) had to say . . .

Then, there is regional development. In Mr. Wilson's budget, regional development is cut by 400 million dollars. That is a 29 percent reduction, Mr. Speaker!

For Newfoundland, certainly not a rich province, for New-Brunswick . . . There used to be some rich people in New-Brunswick: Mr. McCain is rich. There were some, but not many, Mr. Speaker: for Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, regional development is of great importance to Québec. If you compare this year's budget to last year's, you will find that regional development is cut by 29 percent. That is a lot, Mr. Speaker, in a country where unemployment is too high. In Newfoundland, the unemployment rate is 15 or 16 percent, which is too right. In Saskatchewan, where I come from, it is too high, at 8 and 9 percent. It is also too high in northern Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, what we have in fact is two Canadas: Metro Toronto where the unemployment rate is 3% and the rest of the country.

Despite all that, Mr. Speaker, regional development funding will be reduced. I know for a fact that the Liberal

Members from Toronto agree that such a decision from the federal government is really not fair.

Mr. Speaker, we have to think about regional development. Can you find anything about research and development in this Budget, or in the Estimates tabled earlier today, can you find any additional estimates for regional development here, in Canada, can you? Research and development are very important for Canada, and for the future of our children. But our country spends less on this than most developed countries do.

Mr. Speaker, I repeat, it is not fair!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! The Hon. Member for Rosemont (M. B. Tremblay) on a point of order.

M. Tremblay (Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, may I ask my honourable colleague to read the information about regional development in the Budget Papers, on page 71.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I don't think that is a point of order.

[English]

Mr. Riis: I have a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my hon. friend's interjection. However, he is not accurate. If he would turn to the page in front of that, he would find in fact that there is a significant decrease—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is not a point of order for him. It is not a point of order there neither. The Member for Yorkton—Melville. I think the Member for Rosemont and the Member for Kamloops are having a debate which I am sure they will have the time to do next week. However, today the Member for Yorkton—Melville has the floor.

Mr. Nystrom: I will refer the Member across the way to the Budget papers. The Budget itself is just a summary of what happens. If he looks in the Budget papers, he will find that the rate of increase for regional development in this country is not going up. The rate of increase is going down. That was not denied today in Question Period when the question was put by the Member from Essex.

• (1440)

I turn now to agriculture where there are cut-backs for Canadian farmers. There are cut-backs in the dairy sector as well as in the crop insurance area. There are cut-backs in rail line rehabilitation.