

The Budget—Mrs. Maheu

We have continued with our program to put \$2.3 billion over seven years in both tax credits and tax deductions. It is often said: "Well, those tax deductions only help people with higher incomes". That is a very short-sighted view. When we are living in a society where there is a limited number of child care spaces, it is very important to provide incentives to reduce the demand on those spaces until we can increase the number.

We also have our \$100 million program of which, I think, 77 projects have been approved. This is designed to find new innovations for child care.

It is easy for people to sort of throw off as a comment, "Well, why aren't we doing more for child care?" It is important and it will become increasingly important in Canadian society. Our Government has recognized that. But there is not a country in the world which meets its child care objectives. Sweden, which is often referred to as a great leader in this area, has child care spaces for only one-third of its demand and has a two year waiting list. All of the industrialized countries are scrambling to catch up with this question. It is very important that we have taken an approach, not only that we want to provide financial support for child care—we do now in considerable amounts—but also that we want to give some serious thought to how best we can do that. The area of institutionalized child care is still relatively new and there is a great deal that we do not know. The 77 projects that we have currently approved under the innovations fund and more which will be done will help us very much in determining where those financial priorities should go.

I would like to point out, once again, when the Hon. Member makes, I suppose, a predictable comment about poverty that since we came into power in 1984, 1.5 million new jobs have been created in Canada and those were by policies that the Hon. Member's Party denounced in this House and predicted would result in a net loss of 200,000 jobs to Canadian society. A half million fewer Canadians live under the poverty line than did when we came into power in 1984.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret that the Hon. Minister's time has expired. The questions and comments period has expired. If the Member would wind up, I would appreciate it.

Ms. Campbell (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, this debate will continue, not just through this particular Budget, but I think for all time in Canada because it is a

very important, philosophical debate in Canadian society and I am pleased to have had the opportunity to participate in it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments are now terminated. Debate. The Hon. Member for Saint-Laurent.

[Translation]

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to take part in the Budget debate today. I would like to point out to the House and to you that this is much more than a debate about budgetary choices. Indeed, it is a debate about the very nature of our country. We are faced with two visions. The first is the one that my party and I defend, one of a Canada that cares about social justice and fairness and that is sensitive to the less fortunate. The second is the one advocated by the Government and directly inspired by Darwin's "survival of the fittest" philosophy, resulting in a complete *laissez-faire* approach by the Government and a feeling of indifference to the least fortunate in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent my constituents from Saint-Laurent. This riding includes the City of Saint-Laurent, Québec's second largest industrial city, and two residential districts of northern Montreal: Cartierville and Saraguay. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this Budget will be a disaster for my constituents—for the 42,000 workers and 5,000 people desperately seeking employment. I will also have to tell more than 12,000 seniors in my riding that the Prime Minister has gone back on his election promises at their expense, in order to favour his Bay Street friends.

Moreover, the most unfortunate thing is that more than 50 per cent of the families in my riding earn less than \$33,000 and they will be subject to drastic income tax increases, not to mention gasoline tax increases and cuts to child care, another "sacred trust" election promise the Prime Minister made! In fact, it just adds to the long list of commitments the Prime Minister has not kept.

[English]

What will happen to the 13,000 home owners who will face increases in their mortgage payments as a result of this Minister of Finance's perceived inflationary threat? Tenants will also see their rents increase because of the cost incurred by landlords. No one escapes from the ravages of this Budget except, of course, friends of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), the men of the Cana-