

(3) for its continuing policies of high interest rates and slow growth that can only deepen a Tory made-in-Canada recession.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I wish to inform the House that because of the ministerial statement Government Orders will be extended by 26 minutes starting at six o'clock.

The Chair recognizes the parliamentary secretary on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Vincent: Madam Speaker, I think we should ask for the unanimous consent of the House to allow the Leader of the New Democratic Party to finish her speech, and if she needs more time, I think we can count on that unanimous consent.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The House has heard the suggestion made by the parliamentary secretary. Is there unanimous consent?

Mr. Milliken: We are happy to co-operate and give our consent to the suggestion made by the member speaking for the government.

I may say that if the government is in a mood to hand out money we would be pleased to have it distributed equally to all sides of the House.

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Madam Speaker, I welcome the opportunity today to speak on the finance minister's budget. I welcome it more than ever because what this country needs is a serious debate about economic policy.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Ms. McLaughlin: From coast to coast to coast Canadians know that something has gone seriously wrong with the economy of this country. This budget represents a culmination of six years of economic mismanagement.

When we think the government has outdone itself, when we think that it will not introduce any more harmful and short-sighted policies, when we think that there will be a vision, that there will be some new ideas we see, once again, that the old party has old ideas, fighting yesterday's battle with yesterday's solutions in the 1990s.

The Budget

What we need is a serious debate. Contrary to what the government would like to see, that debate must involve all Canadians. That means women's groups and aboriginal groups, environmentalists, social justice advocates—all advocacy groups. It is no coincidence that this government is cutting \$23 million from advocacy groups.

This finance minister and this government are attempting each year to silence more voices, the voices of aboriginal people, the voices of senior citizens, the voices of women. The voices in society who have the most to lose are silenced by this budget.

But one voice is being heard loud and clear. That is the voice of a senior citizen, a veteran who has served his country. His voice is in response to the fact that he is going to have to pay \$6 extra a day as a result of this minister's budget, \$6 a day in a budget measured in billions. So what does one of those veteran residents in the Rideau Veterans Home have to say? Mr. Trailing states: "After all the boys have done for this country they get stepped on and insulted". Then he refers to the finance minister and states: "I would like to take on that guy. We are a special breed and all he gives us is a big foot on our neck".

• (1700)

That may sum up the feelings of many Canadians about this budget. So this government is going to get a vigorous debate from the New Democratic Party and I would say from Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

What we are going to be saying to this government is that we are weary of broken promises. We are weary of deception. If, for example, this government says it is going to save the environment and provide a better future for our children, then the government should do it. Do not deliver a budget reacting to yesterday. Deliver a budget that deals with the issues of tomorrow that leads us boldly into the 1990s.

The fact is that this budget is like an old grade B movie. The present finance minister has given Canadians a budget of out-of-control interest rates, escalating unemployment, a budget that is destined to lead this country into further recession. This is a budget for an army fighting a cold war that no longer exists. It is a budget that ignores an environmental crisis that very much does exist.

There is no vision here. There is no grasp of the challenges confronting us. This government is reacting to yesterday instead of building for tomorrow. There is