

*The Budget—Right Hon. J. N. Turner*

friends". The Business Council on National Issues is made up of the presidents and chief executive officers of the largest corporations of this country. I do not know how it worked, but Tom D'Aquino might have said: "Mike, why don't you draft a letter and I will sign it?" So they got their letter. The Minister loves to get up and read letters of support from the big-hitters, because the big-hitters started to get worried that the dollar was going down and the Budget had not been favourably received, and they had to support the Minister of Finance.

Before I wind up, there are some other quotations I would like to read to the House. Frank Garritty of the Canadian Teachers Federation said of the Budget—

—will inhibit sustained economic growth and hit hardest at the average wage earner—

Marjorie Cohen of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women said the Budget indicates that—

—an unacceptably high level of unemployment is considered normal.

Jim McCambly, President of Canadian Federation of Labour, said:

—some tax loopholes for the rich were reduced a tiny bit, but the working stiffs still get it right through the nose.

Sally Hall, President of the Consumers Association of Canada, said:

This is the exact opposite of what the Government should be doing to get consumer spending going again.

Patrick Johnston of the National Anti-Poverty Organization said:

I am not convinced that simply because there were no major cuts in social programs (in this Budget) we will not be faced with them a year from now.

Allan Sinclair of the Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia had this to say about the Budget:

For our industry, the net impact is negative.

Ontario Treasurer, Robert Nixon, said:

The increase in consumer taxes is bound to have a bad effect in the province.

Even the Chamber of Commerce—wouldn't you believe these boys could give the Government a passing grade?

**Mr. Marchi:** He did not write a letter.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** He did not write a letter, that is for sure. The Chamber of Commerce was lukewarm. Here is what its Director, Tony Amery, said:

He is looking at a tax solution as opposed to an expenditure solution and that is something that concerns us.

There is one other quote I would like to read: It says:

We have no intention of raising income taxes... we have to reduce government spending.

Who was that, Mr. Speaker? That was the Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Penner:** That's Mike.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** That is the Minister of Finance during the election campaign on City-TV, August 28, 1984 at 11 p.m.

I had better quote the Prime Minister. He would feel left out.

**Mr. Gauthier:** He's never here anyway.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Maybe somebody will point it out to him tomorrow morning. I would also like to remind the House of a commitment made by the Prime Minister when he was the Leader of the Opposition. In a speech in Vancouver on August 24, 1984 he said:

We will reform the personal income tax system to make it more fair, more progressive and more productive... We are committed to the goal of fair taxation.

A goal of fair taxation—what a definition of fairness! The rich get their capital gains exemption. The corporate sector gets a reduced percentage of total taxation. The average Canadian family really gets it in the teeth. Now the Prime Minister, his Ministers and all of them over there, they are on the road and they have a prepared text. We have to work for our stuff, don't we? We have to do our own work and our own research, but they have it all wrapped up beautifully, all marked for them. Their chiefs of staff—these commissars that the Prime Minister puts in every Minister's office—mark the notes for them so the Minister sees the key spots. That Kitchener meeting was a dandy, that Halifax meeting was a dandy, but if they get out there with the real people, they are going to find that no matter how hard they try they are not going to be able to sell a lousy product.

Thank you for your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to those few members of the Ministry here for their attention. I do not believe this Government is seriously attacking the deficit. If it were, it would have a strategy. The only strategy for getting at the public debt of this country is fairness. Raising revenues must be done in a fair way. Cutting expenditures must be done in a fair way, because over the long run the public debt of the country will not be brought under control unless Canadians from every walk of life, no matter where they live in the country, what income range or what opportunities they have, believe that the burden of cutting the deficit and gaining control over the public expenditures of this country is being shared fairly. If the process is not seen to be fair—on the basis of the figures I have brought before Your Honour, it is shockingly unfair—there will be more resistance by taxpayers. Some newspapers suggest a tax revolt, but there certainly will be resistance. There will be a growing underground economy because people who are not being treated fairly and do not feel they are being treated fairly will not respond to the urgencies of the Government.

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The Budget, taken together with the last Budget, is in fact counterproductive because of its unfairness. People will not co-operate in trying to make it work because they do not believe the burden is being shared fairly.

Good fiscal management means understanding, and in order to bring the public purse under control it is necessary to be fair at every stage of the process.