

*The Budget*

and think. That is what we did when we wrote this budget.

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member spoke of a realistic budget, but how can he call it realistic when he has not addressed the realities of today. I submit that this budget is more like a shell game where the movement of the hand is quicker than the movement of the eyes.

I ask how this government can face the 1.5 million unemployed Canadians and the 2 million people forced to take welfare assistance and at the same time admit that the unemployment rate will remain at nearly 10 per cent for the next two years.

What answer does the member and his government have, if any, to a couple in my constituency, both pensioners, forced to support their unemployed son and daughter-in-law and not even get a tax break? What answer does this government have for constituents who feel aggrieved that capital gains exemptions would be allowed on other assets but not on their only second real estate asset? How would this government ensure our youth and children will have a future through education and training programs?

In the middle of his speech he said he would like to speak on "A Tale of Two Cities in Canada". Perhaps he should have spoken on the tale of two terms of the federal Tory government in Canada. In the first term we saw an increase in taxes 33 times. It doubled the national debt. It imposed the GST. It choked the provinces. It allowed poverty to increase.

During the second term taxes continued to increase, cuts continued to be imposed on provinces, the recession happened.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I am sorry. The hon. member's time has expired. I am sorry I cannot get the minister to answer.

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Mr. Speaker, I will not say that I am happy to participate in the budget debate, but I am anxious to participate in the budget debate.

I have to say to the minister who has just spoken that I found his comments in one respect extremely offensive

and, let me say, beneath a minister of the Crown. At one point during his debate, rather than relying upon substance, relying upon facts to deal with the municipal infrastructure program that has been proposed by members of this party, the Federation of Municipalities and by most of the provinces as a job creation measure, rather than relying upon a proper analysis of the program to show either its merit or lack of merit, what did the minister of the Crown say? He said: "Well, back in my riding my taxpayers are not going to want to support a municipal infrastructure program. Their tax dollar is going to help Montreal and Toronto. Therefore, they do not support this program".

I want all members present to think about what the minister said. The minister was practising the politics of division, a subtle form of tribalism. That is what he was doing. A federal minister of the Crown who should be speaking for all of Canada, all the time, tried to attack a job creation measure in the face of 1.5 million unemployed, not on the basis that the program did not make sense or was not worth while, but by trying to conjure up the image that the people who live in his riding—it is a great riding. I have been there. I have visited the minister's riding—might see some of their tax dollars going into Toronto or Montreal. To appeal to the tribal instinct, to be opposed for that reason and that reason only, is a shameful performance by a minister of the Crown.

In every region, every province of this country, there are major capital intensive projects that have benefited from the tax dollars of the rest of the country and they are not all in Montreal and Toronto. Some are in Atlantic Canada, some are on the prairies, some are in British Columbia. There is a major particle collider super-duper project now going ahead in British Columbia at the cost of hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars, not only from the taxpayers of British Columbia but from right across Canada. That is right and proper and is as it should be.

• (1610)

There are major federal facilities in the minister's own riding—I have been to his riding—that have been built with taxpayers' dollars from all across Canada. That is as it should be.