

Recently, the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mrs. McDougall) announced a new labour force development strategy for the 1990s. It will be based upon consultation with the private sector to design programs to train Canadians and upgrade their skills in order that they can better meet the demands of a quickly evolving labour market.

I am a strong supporter of the Budget precisely because it will allow future generations the ability to make excellent choices like these.

In a similar light, it recently was my honour, on behalf of the Minister of Employment, to announce in my constituency federal funding to the Barrie and District Industrial Training Council for use to help launch an experimental job skills project in participating secondary schools throughout Simcoe County.

Skills Canada is intended to improve the image of manufacturing careers, and provide an incentive for students to pursue technical careers boosting enrolment in many technical colleges and schools, while providing technical workers for industrial growth. This program is unique in Canada and the Government has shown innovative leadership by providing the start-up funds.

Last week, 12 Simcoe County students specializing in 12 different technical areas, travelled to Columbus, Ohio to participate in an international skills competition. Their results were impressive. Competing against 1,200 others, they placed in the top third of the competition. One student even came home to Huronia with a bronze medal.

Just as programs like these assist today's generation to make necessary choices, so in turn do future Governments and future generations need the ability to do the same. Let there be no mistake that this is far more than the usual Budget debate over tinkering at the edges. This is a debate about the very future, the economic future, of our nation.

It is a debate between those on the other side of the House who take no responsibility for that future, and who did not even when they were in office and had that responsibility, and those of us who say, simply, that it is time to pay our way, time to make the tough choices so that our grandchildren can determine what type of Canada they want.

It is time to stand up and be counted. It is time to decide whether political expediency counts for more

than our grandchildren's future. I have listened intently to this debate for the past several days. I have heard absolutely nothing from the other side of the House to indicate anything more than what some call political posturing.

• (1620)

What has the Opposition been saying throughout this debate? It is simple. It has been taking the easy route. Nobody likes tax increases, so it says cut taxes. Nobody likes spending cuts, so it says do not cut expenditures. But where is there responsibility to the nation? Who speaks for the grandchildren? How big a burden is it willing to put on our grandchildren in its single-minded pursuit of the immediately popular?

Every minute, every hour, every day the debt compounds and we, everyone of us in this country, go deeper into debt and must dig deeper to pay the interest.

Only by getting it under control, only by taking the tough decisions now while we still have a chance, can my grandchildren expect to have the life my grandfather dreamt of for me. The choice is ours. It is ours here and now, not at some indefinite point in the future when it will be too late.

For the sake of the grandchildren, we must make the right choice.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, let me congratulate the Hon. Member on her speech. I must say, however, that if the Government was really serious about the deficit in this country it would be attacking the great tax giveaways that have been in place since the days the Liberals were in office. The give-aways to corporations in Canada now amount to some \$34 billion. These give-aways have been determined by economists to be completely uneconomic.

If the Government was genuine, it would introduce a minimum corporate tax. Instead, we see the crocodile tears shed about the deficit, which I may say, are shed for a deficit which has largely remained untouched by this Budget. Instead we see a Government that is repudiating its election promises to the people of Canada. It is repudiating solemn commitments made to Canadians. The commitment on child care has been repudiated. The commitment on social programs has been repudiated. Its commitments on regional programs have been repudiated. Its commitments on unemployment insurance have been repudiated. Its commitment on official devel-