

The Budget

recovers. Instead, the Minister of Finance remains silent on a burning social issue.

The Minister of Finance in this budget has abandoned social programs. His message to the provinces is clear: "You are on your own". His vision of Canada consists of one word, "deficit".

Canadians must watch out now. Ottawa is retreating in true Meech Lake fashion. The provinces and municipalities are asked to carry the burden. You, who may be in need of housing, family services, health care, women's services, you name it, do not look any more to Ottawa. The solution of social issues has to come from elsewhere. Lower your sights. Look at your provincial capital. Canada, in true Tory fashion, is just a community of communities. It is no longer a strong and proud federal nation. What an abdication of responsibilities.

A long time ago, and yet it could have been yesterday, William Lyon Mackenzie King said this about the Conservative Party: "Tories, allow me to congratulate you, your feet are at last on the people's necks." Yes, their feet are on the people's necks, but only until the next election.

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. member who has just spoken. He mentioned carbons and carbon dioxide. I wonder if he would expound on what this government is doing to try to overcome that and play its part in the international community.

For example, reforestation agreements with six provinces have expired. They have not been renewed. Does the member know whether these are going to be renewed or not since forests are a great asset when it comes to overcoming carbon dioxide and of course for the health of the environment generally? Our fisheries are being depleted. What is the government doing about this? At the United Nations, Canada seems to have been dragging its feet on ratification of the Law of the Sea. Rivers and harbours are polluted all across Canada.

What is the government doing? Does it have a concentrated effort afoot to try to cure some of these things? Is it really doing anything about forestry projects in this country? Is it doing anything to encourage forestry on the international scene. Deforestation is taking place

and we need to do something in order to overcome the very serious carbon dioxide problem in the world.

Mr. Caccia: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my hon. colleague for his question. In brief, the answer is that concerning planet warming and CO₂ pollution the government is making high-sounding, well-phrased rhetorical declarations abroad. It is cutting research relevant to the subject. It is continuing to fund our dependence on fossil fuels by way of support of mega projects, as in the case of the engineering studies on the OSLO project. Finally, it is not renewing the forestry agreements, which I am sure the hon. member is extremely interested in, with the major forest-growing provinces, namely, Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, in discussing this Conservative budget, let me start by saying that it is a total fabrication to suggest, as the Minister of Finance and other Conservative members have done, that the government's budget policy does not include any tax increases.

The minister's speech on February 20 did not directly mention any new taxes. However, that speech is only part of the government's budgetary policy. The total budgetary policy of the government includes a deluge of taxes beginning with the goods and services tax which is presently being pushed through this House, the bill being in committee at the present time.

In addition to the goods and services tax, we have surtaxes dating back to 1984, the clawbacks on old age security and family allowances, and the increases in contributions for unemployment insurance as a result of the government's Bill C-21.

So while the minister's speech on February 20 might not have mentioned any new taxes, the budgetary policy of the government, of which that speech is only part, is full of tax increases. The goods and services tax alone has been described as the biggest tax grab in Canadian history.

If the bill is passed as it stands and goes into effect in January of 1991, the government will be able to raise, through that tax alone, \$1.7 billion in the fiscal year 1991-92. The federal government's tax revenues have