

*The Budget—Miss Grey*

**Miss Grey (Beaver River):** I appreciate that. I am sorry, I did see the Hon. Member here. I was under the impression that he had left shortly thereafter. I guess the press did not pick that up, perhaps.

Nonetheless, the leak is not the crisis. The financial situation in this country is what is the crisis. That is what we need to deal with.

**Mr. Walker:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our hon. colleague from Beaver River for her comments. I notice the change in strategy. There are several westerners in the House right now, everywhere from the Lakehead west, listening to the comments and our curiosity about the Party and the stance of the Party. I notice that she is very critical of the Government and for its Budget. I would like to also point out for the record that she did support the Speech from the Throne. I take it that this is a change in strategy which I would like her to clarify for us, that her critical comments means that she is opposing the Government's Budget strategy. In particular, I would like to have some comments from her as to how she thinks the Government's high interest rate strategies affect the West.

• (1740)

**Miss Grey** Let me also point out that I am here representing the Reform Party, not the Liberal Party or the NDP. The fact that I may support a Liberal in Alberta would certainly be a far stranger aberration than an NDP or a Reform Party member.

Nonetheless, I would like to say in answer to that that my position as an elected Member of the House of Commons is to represent my constituents. My constituents, and indeed I believe western Canadians, are in favour of free trade, so if I am hurting any of the opposition Members' feelings on that, I am sorry. All I can do is speak on behalf of my constituents.

I campaigned from Thanksgiving straight through until March 13. I have been around Beaver River, let me tell you. The people there were very strongly in favour of free trade, and if that offends any of the opposition Parties, then I have to beg forgiveness from them. But my job in terms of representing my constituents was to be pro-free trade.

I have made it fairly clear what I feel about the Budget, and that is the issue at hand right now. I will certainly be voting with the Government sometimes and with the Opposition sometimes, according to the wishes of my constituents.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Questions and comments are now terminated. Debate.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I noticed that you indicated previously that you wanted to recognize another Hon. Member later, but I do not believe that the unanimous consent of the House was sought in order to change the rules and perhaps you would like to make that request.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is there unanimous consent to allow the Hon. Member from the NDP to have the last three minutes for his speech?

**Mr. Kindy:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think there is ten minutes of questions and comments.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The Hon. Member for Calgary Northeast (Mr. Kindy) has a question or comment? Please put it.

**Mr. Kindy:** I would like to congratulate the Hon. Member for Beaver River (Miss Grey) for her excellent speech. Perhaps she could make a short comment on her feelings about the value-added tax or the goods and services tax and how that will affect the consumers of her riding.

**Miss Grey:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for that question. Again, I think I can speak quite comfortably on behalf of the people of Beaver River. They are very upset about the goods and services tax which will come in mainly because of the points I have talked about already. If it will be consistent, if everyone will pay and if the Government is looking after the money that it already has, if we were to see the Government spending money wisely, then the people of my riding would be quite comfortable chipping in their fair share. Unfortunately, they have not seen that yet and so they are quite upset about this goods and services tax.

Small business is upset. I was at a meeting on Saturday night with the Chamber of Commerce in my riding and they are almost devastated by this Budget and the impending goods and services tax.

**Mr. Marchi:** Mr. Speaker, I too commend not all the arguments the Hon. Member has made but certainly the force and the compelling commitment that she attaches to her words and thoughts. I would be curious to find out what the position of the Reform Party would be on the question of the universality of some of the programs that are being chipped away and second, whether there is a fear among the Reform Party that those thresholds will be lowered and that will be administered to different programs such as medicare. She may wish to comment on the over-all picture of universality in social programs.