

*The Budget—Ms. Clancy*

that their children's exposure to music may become too expensive a luxury, a luxury they simply cannot afford.

Again in my riding of Halifax, a number of small restaurants flourish in the downtown core. Workers can buy their lunches for under \$5. The sales tax will write *finis* to that. Restaurateurs of Halifax are frightened, with good reason.

In spite of everything, the middle-income worker of Halifax presses on. But it gets harder. Working mothers without access to child care, senior citizens threatened with a loss of the portion of their planned retirement income, travellers—mostly seniors and students—threatened with the loss of their favourite mode of transportation.

Nova Scotian universities, too, have a proud tradition. For generations they have provided teachers, lawyers, doctors and scores of other community leaders to the rest of the country, indeed to the world. Today, university administrations, faculties and students are suffering from underfunding. How does the Government react to this need? Does it offer relief to the beleaguered institutions and the people who work in them? No. The Government offers yet more cuts.

• (1540)

Education and a better life for our children has been the driving force behind Nova Scotians, be they coal-miners, fishermen, dock workers, or farmers. The deterioration caused by the squeeze on our universities is perhaps the most obscene because it causes people to lose their dreams, their dreams of betterment. The loss of hope for the future is and will be unforgivable.

Students watch their universities crumble around them because established programs funding has been reduced. Shame it is and shame it will continue to be.

What about cultural funding? What about cultural unity forged through the CBC? It is losing its punch as the corporation loses funding.

Health care is at risk. Defence policy has been decimated. Small towns like Summerside and Barrington have been inflicted major wounds. Larger centres such as Sydney are bleeding from cuts.

Over all, it has been tax, tax and more tax. What for? It was to reduce a deficit that was not important enough to mention in the last election campaign.

Canadians are reeling from this juggernaut of a Budget. However, the deficit is hardly touched, hardly touched at all. My constituents understand the need to make sacrifices, to ensure that our children are not crippled by debt in their future endeavours. To get kicked in the teeth and not even see a significant deficit reduction is the unkindest cut of all.

My constituents and, indeed, the vast majority of Atlantic Canadians have a deep and abiding belief in Canada. That abiding belief was manifested by their rejection of the Reagan trade deal. They are disturbed and upset by this Budget with its concerted attacks on those Canadian institutions upon which they have depended for many years. They believe that they deserve better than a harsh uncaring Government that appears to attack without reason. They believe that this Budget is another step on the downhill slide to that level playing field with the United States. The problem is that one person's level playing field is another person's graveyard.

**Mr. Andre:** Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Member for Halifax (Ms. Clancy) on her speech. I do not know whether or not this is her first speech in the House. It is; she nods her head in affirmation. I congratulate her. It was an excellent initial contribution.

However, she spent her speech, appropriately for a budget debate, criticizing the Budget. She criticized the expenditure cuts pretty well universally. I did not hear any praise for the expenditure cuts at all. I think that she was critical of all of them implying that they should not have been made.

She also criticized the revenue side, suggesting that taxes were too high and implying that the tax increases should not have been made.

She also said that she did not think there was enough reduction in the deficit to justify the spending cuts and the revenue increases. My confusion throughout is that if none of the cuts should have been made and none of the taxes should have been raised, then according to the finance figures the deficit would be about \$36.5 billion as opposed to the projected \$30.5 billion.

She has said that she is opposed to the cuts. She is opposed to the tax increases as well. However, she is