

*The Budget*

from the Conservative point of view. That would be a very helpful exercise in making sure that Albertans and Canadians generally understand what the tax is all about.

• (1650)

There are many questions that Canadians had before this budget was presented, and there are still many questions to be answered. But the hon. member has a point. What is that we must do?

I believe, as we have heard many times as we crossed the country with the Standing Committee on Finance, that we do have to get involved in real and meaningful tax reform. It is no longer a question of passing the buck. It is our buck. The buck stops here, whether it is federal, provincial or municipal.

As the mayor of Vancouver suggested at our hearing in Vancouver, we have to look at what the impact is of tax reform, not to have federal unilateral tax reform and some provincial machinations and then the municipalities pick up whatever is left as it trickles down. We need to look at what we are doing in terms of our taxation policy, our spending policy. How does monetary policy integrate into what we are trying to achieve in this country? We have to get along. We have to be able to talk. The great conciliator has blown it. Where are the premiers as we talk about economic matters in this country, never mind the other issues? On straight economic matters where are the provinces?

Are we going to have a country with 10 economies, 10 provinces, where all the provinces will be judged like this: "Are you making money this year? Do you have a budget this year? Do you have a little more capacity to pay"? Is this the kind of Canada that we are trying to develop, instead of a cohesive, national approach to our problems in our economy? Are we saying: "Let's break it all up into little pieces and let's deal with each province as a separate entity"?

We understand the jurisdictional problems that are involved. Confederation has survived for over 100 years. This is a very different kind of approach.

Too often the federal government has raised taxes and got involved in budget cuts without fully recognizing the impact on provincial governments and municipal govern-

ments. We need to get involved in a very serious reform of government activity from the point of view of taxation, spending and monetary policy.

[*Translation*]

When they look at the government's record, after five and half years in power, Canadians certainly have the right to be discouraged. They know perfectly well that we have to be competitive on international markets and that we have to improve job creation and the training of our workforce. They know perfectly well that Canada has to keep playing a leading role in connection with the dramatic changes that are taking place in the world.

[*English*]

We must be competitive. Canadians try always to be the best they can be, but we know that we cannot excel if we do not manage our economy effectively, if we do not respect the environment, if we do not make sure we have the best possible education system.

Canadians know that these goals and objectives have a price. Canadians are always prepared to pay the price when the price is fair. Canadians know that we cannot move confidently, never mind into the 1990s by trying to spread our vision into what we want to do in the 21st century, if we are strait-jacketed by a government which has demonstrated unequivocally that it is unable to manage its own affairs after having bragged about good management for years.

We believe that Canadians can achieve great things together. We can work together to try to move toward a debt-free country. Our citizens, our children, deserve a healthy environment and a healthy economy. In my view the two go hand in hand. The tragedy of yesterday is that this budget does not deliver on either of those dreams.

I therefore move:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and by substituting the following:

This House condemn the government

(1) for escalating an already intolerable tax burden on Canadians, including its proposed goods and services tax, while attempting to shift its obligations on to lower income Canadians and the provinces;

(2) for its attempts to abandon its responsibilities for health care, post-secondary education, veterans and regional development, and