

THE BUDGET

Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing): Mr. Speaker, health care and post-secondary education are the highest priorities of Canadians. Eighty-eight per cent of Canadians told this government not to cut funding to these programs. Yet yesterday's budget cut \$7.6 billion from health care and post-secondary education funding anyway. The finance minister is paying for his high interest rate fixation on the backs of the sick and the students of this country. He is slashing social programs as his big business friends have told him to do. If you are sick in Newfoundland, this government is saying you do not deserve the highest quality health care. If you are a student in Saskatchewan, this government is saying you do not deserve a high quality university or college education.

The dream of equal treatment for all Canadians regardless of where they live and regardless of their financial resources is dead.

The options available to the provinces, especially the less well off provinces, are very limited. They can increase their deficits, raise taxes, cut health and education programs or privatize services. None of these options are desirable. They are the deliberate consequences of the federal government's actions in this "pass the buck" budget.

This government is cutting off funding to what it says are its own priorities. It cannot have it both ways. It is high time it came clean with Canadians.

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FISHERIES

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, the Canso Community Survival Task Force left Ottawa yesterday empty-handed and bitterly disappointed after their fruitless meeting with three members of this government: the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the minister responsible for ACOA and the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

The government which had promised a program of generous assistance to communities affected by the crisis in the Atlantic fisheries had not one dime of support for a community facing economic ruin. The task force suggestion that Canso receive its fair share of available fish quotas either through a community quota or a

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requirement that National Sea allocate some of its fish to Canso was greeted with cold stares and deaf ears by the Minister of Fisheries.

As a further kick in the shins, the budget which the Minister of Finance read later on that afternoon, had not one word to say about the crisis-stricken Atlantic fishery.

The people in Atlantic Canada can draw only one conclusion from this pitiful display of neglect. This government has written off Atlantic Canadians and it is time for Atlantic Canadians to write off this government.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. Willie Littlechild (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to express my sincere thanks but also my deep sympathy to our parliamentary pages for a devastating loss to the members of Parliament in last night's annual hockey game.

It was a sweet victory. The hon. members from Kitchener, Victoria and Notre-Dame-de-Grâce led off in a pummelling of the pages, and it was smooth-sailing from then on. Although the pages persevered, they were no match for the hon. members who were simply too fast and furious.

Even though the pages had youth on their side, it was nothing compared to the experience and the athletic bodies of the smooth skating members. The House should know that the members' team was a tremendous credit to the world of sport, hockey in particular, as they displayed sportsmanship throughout, even allowing the page from La Passe, Ontario, to score a goal.

To conclude, I have been but one thing left to say. As sweet as the victory was, hon. members look forward to next year's challenge when we will do it all again.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

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WILLIAMS LAKE CANADA EMPLOYMENT CENTRE

Mr. Dave Worthy (Cariboo—Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, it is far too often that loyal and dedicated public servants bear the brunt of much public and political criticism. This is why it is such an honour to announce here in the House that the Williams Lake Canada Employment Centre in my riding of Cariboo—Chilcotin has been