

*The Budget—Mr. Skelly*

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker from Mississauga, wherever it is, reminds me so much of the other Member, the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn), that I can never keep the two constituencies or their lines of thought straight.

I really enjoy the Hon. Member's presentations in this House. Anyone who can maintain such humour and enthusiasm in the face of such a dismal performance as the Government has displayed throughout this Parliament really deserves the praise and support of the entire Parliament. There certainly is not another Member who can produce such enthusiasm, humour and vigour in the face of absolutely no content. There must be a medal that we as Members of Parliament could collectively conjure up to give such an individual.

There was one aspect, Mr. Speaker, that was very important. The Member for Mississauga North (Mr. Fisher) enjoys haranguing other Members of the House to do their homework. Unfortunately, the lack of background of the Member led him to misunderstand the question which I put to him concerning the Federal Business Development Bank. I would like to review that one more time for him. The point is that we are not talking about new investors in a business. The Hon. Member knows very well that in order to refinance the existing debt or cancel the debt due to repayment there is an enormous and unreasonable penalty imposed by the Federal Business Development Bank against those small businesses to bring in equity capital to attempt to pay back that debt.

The Member also knows that the problem is not one of risk. During the time of the Liberal Government's high interest period all businesses were at risk. During this period of time the Federal Business Development Bank was charging an usurious rate of interest. It is unfortunate that neither the Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism, (Mr. Smith) nor the former Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Finance will seriously consider talking to the Federal Business Development Bank to encourage it to allow refinancing without the exorbitant penalties and incredible amount of red tape with which it involves itself. Hopefully that Parliamentary Secretary, the Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) will seriously consider the concerns of small businesses and their very negative relationship with the Federal Business Development Bank.

During the Budget speech debate today I would like to call the attention of the House, and particularly of the Government, to three problems which the Budget completely ignores. The first problem is that of the fishing industry on the West Coast of the country, the second one is that of native communities, and the third one is that of single industry towns in general.

The most important one would be the problem of single industry towns. These spread from one end of the country to the other throughout the north. Much of the wealth generated in the country comes from single industry communities. There are 32 communities in the riding I represent. Many of them are in fact single industry communities. The ones which do not

fit the classical definition resemble it very closely. A single industry town generally has one major employer. It may be a logging outfit, a pulp mill, a saw mill or a mine. That one employer is generally the only source of employment in the community. Therefore, one-half of the community is generally without any means of gainful employment. It is interesting to go into towns such as Gold River, Tahsis and Zeballos and find that only one spouse in a family can work. The other spouse, regardless of his or her level of talent, is unemployed with generally no hope of employment.

There seems to be a great trend of providing federal Government grants, federal Government initiatives and federal Government services to the larger communities in the southern Canadian belt. However, in those communities there is nothing for young people. The Government does not reach there with its programs. The Government does not reach there with its concern. In fact, it takes a look at the single industry town and notes that the average income of most wage earners there is medium to high. Yet for more than half of the community, for women and young people generally, those communities offer absolutely no opportunities.

The second serious problem which the Government's Budget fails to address, and which it fails to address generally, is the problem of Government services in those communities. Those communities are generally 100 miles or more from any source of Government services, whether it be postal service, unemployment insurance, National Health and Welfare programs, education programs, recreation programs or sports programs. Instead of providing mechanisms to service those communities the Government generally moves, in the restraint mode, to try to cut back the travel time of civil servants. As a result, no one ever gets into those communities to talk about summer employment programs, Canada Works Programs or the Environment 2000 Program. In fact, many of those communities are left out of the mainstream of opportunities through federal Government grants.

Unemployment insurance is a beautiful case in point. I will use the town of Tahsis as an example. There are two large sawmills there. Because the pulp industry is having difficulty and the same employer owns the pulp mill, saw mills and logging operations, they say that if they are shutting down the pulp mill they are going to shut down the sawmills. The Unemployment Insurance Commission used to send a person in there to collect the applications for unemployment insurance and the separation slips from the employer. They would put it all in a package and process it very quickly in the main centre 100 miles away in Campbell River. But they chose not to do this. In providing for restraint, by cutting back and being responsible, they decided it was well to be responsible in the community of Campbell River and in the southern communities. But it was not, I guess propitious to be responsible to the residents of Tahsis who pay a very large proportion of their wages in income tax. Consequently, they have to depend on the mail service, which from Tahsis and many other similar type communities is very poor. You can look at ten days one way. If