The Budget--Mr. MacLaren

Today, I am tabling all the budgetary documents, including notices of Ways and Means motions covering changes to the Income Tax Act, the Excise Act, the Excise Tax Act, the Customs Tariff and the Old Age Security Act. Details of these measures are included in the material that I am tabling. I ask that an order of the day be designated for the consideration of each of these Ways and Means motions.

In addition, pursuant to a motion of this House I will introduce today a Bill seeking the borrowing authority for the 1989-90 fiscal year.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to the order adopted on Wednesday, April 19, 1989, the House will now revert to the item "Introduction of Government Bills".

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT, 1989-90

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-11, an Act to provide borrowing authority.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Minister have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Speaker: When shall the Bill be read the second time? At the next sitting of the House?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

Hon. Roy MacLaren (Etobicoke North): Mr. Speaker, the Budget that was made public some 24 hours ago demonstrates what many Canadians have known for years. It is that the Government of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is at one and the same time unfair and indifferent to the real needs of Canadians, and incompetent in the management of the finances of our country.

That the Government hopes to deal with its deficit by slashing programs and raising taxes is now painfully clear. Much will be said in the next weeks about this Budget and its impact on the average Canadian family. We on this side of the House shall participate in that debate. We shall have a great deal to say about it.

In these next few minutes I want to say something about deficits, not the Government's deficit, not the many dollars that separate its spending from its income. I want to talk about the deficits that every Canadian understands, the deficits with which every Canadian can identify, the deficits that touch the lives of every Canadian in a very real way.

There are many deficits in this Budget, but they are very different from the deficit the Government talks about. There is a deficit of compassion, of assistance, of caring.

Ask a single mother in Brampton who relies on day care to enable her to work full time who believed the Prime Minister when he promised a comprehensive national day care plan. Where is that promise today? There is a deficit of caring.

Ask a woman in Vancouver whose husband was left for two nights in an emergency ward because no hospital bed was available. Ask the people who hoped that funding for our health care system would be increased, not mindlessly cut as it has been in this Budget.

There is in this Budget a deficit of assistance, assistance for Canadians in real need. Ask the young family in Bonavista who has to survive on unemployment assistance for seven months of the year, who now faces cuts not only in unemployment insurance but also in regional development grants which can offer them a way out of poverty. Now the Government is withdrawing from unemployment insurance.