

The Budget—Mr. Crosbie

41 per cent, compared to December, 1984. Bankruptcies were down 18 per cent and retail sales have increased by 7 per cent in the past year and 11 per cent since the September, 1984 election. The value of building permits is up by 11.5 per cent and 11 per cent more houses were under construction at the end of 1985 than at the end of 1984.

In spite of those facts, we hear those Members opposite trying to say that we are ignoring Atlantic Canada and that Atlantic Canada is somehow discriminated against. I will put the lie to that, if you give me enough time, Mr. Speaker.

I will not dwell on the pitiful shape of the deficit situation left to us by the Liberal-NDP alliance that practically wrecked this country in the last 15 years. I will not even mention that 22.8 per cent of all our spending in Canada for the year ending this March was to pay interest on the debt incurred by the Liberal-NDP wastrels and spendthrifts. It means that there was \$25.61 billion that we could not spend on roads, services, economic development or improving the social security system. It had to be spent on interest on the debt left behind by those Members who we hear fussing every day about unemployment, jobs and Government policy. Mr. Simpson was being very polite when he talked about grievous intellectual inconsistencies, flagrant opportunism and blatant hypocrisy. He should have called it blatant opportunism and flagrant hypocrisy.

Let me explain what we have accomplished for Atlantic Canada in this Budget and elaborate on what has been done in Newfoundland in the past 18 months for which I and other Members here are proud to claim the credit. Action was taken for Atlantic Canada because we have influence.

● (1240)

I looked at a rag from Atlantic Canada called the "Atlantic Insight" magazine. One of its articles said that nothing has been done for Atlantic Canada and the poor PC Members there have no clout—they ain't got no clout. Well, if we ain't got no clout, why is the Government—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: Just listen now. That is premature anti-clouting.

Mr. Gauthier: How about anti-mouthy?

Mr. Crosbie: What happened in the Budget? First, there was a new program introduced, the Atlantic Enterprise program. There are \$1 billion worth of loans for Atlantic Canada for business start-up or expansion. It has to be a minimum loan of \$250,000 or greater, for new capital investment. This will go together with the possibility of lower cost financing through interest rate buy-downs of up to 6 per cent. That is to give the private sector a chance to grow and expand in Atlantic Canada.

In Atlantic Canada someone said: "Oh, this is not going to help us. We don't have a very strong private sector". My answer was: "How are we going to get a stronger private sector if the Government does not help it to become strong?"

Of all the parts of Canada, Atlantic Canada is receiving an entirely new program to help the private sector—that is, the four Atlantic Provinces and Atlantic Quebec. We are not forgetting our confreres in Atlantic Quebec, the Gaspé and Kamouraska, I think is the county. They are included in this program as well and we are happy to have them included. That is the great new program for economic development in Atlantic Canada. My comrade and friend, the Hon. Sinc Stevens, is in charge of that.

What happened to the investment tax credit? It is phased out across the country everywhere except where? Except Atlantic Canada. Is that discrimination against Atlantic Canada? Is that prejudice against Atlantic Canada? Does that show we have no clout? What utter crap, Mr. Speaker. The investment tax credit is phased out across the country except in Atlantic Canada and Atlantic Quebec. The 20 per cent tax credit has been extended. The 35 per cent for small business has been extended to the offshore to help the development of the oil and gas and mineral resources which lie offshore. So the rest of Canada was eliminated from this program.

I hope no one from the other areas is listening to me because I am speaking now to Atlantic Canada. The investment tax credit is left in place. Is that discrimination against Atlantic Canada? No, it is discrimination for Atlantic Canada because the Government knows that we are regionally deprived and we need assistance.

The 60 per cent tax credit in Cape Breton has been left in place. It is eliminated everywhere else outside of Atlantic Canada and that is discrimination for Cape Breton. Does that show a loss of clout of those who represent Atlantic Canada? Not on your life. That shows that the present Hon. Member for Cape Breton Highlands-Canso (Mr. O'Neil) has a hell of a lot more clout than the person in the other place who sidled and snook up to that other place. He was shrewd enough to know that the shellacking was coming and he went to the other place and did not run in Cape Breton again.

I do not have time to go into all of the research and development, but there was a \$300 million increase in research and development spending for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Medical Research Council and the Social Sciences and Humanity Research Council, which will help us because we do not have that much R and D spending going on in the private sector. We need these granting councils to play a key role.

I was told there is nothing in the Budget for fishermen. What twaddle! Fishermen, farmers and loggers are going to continue to receive the three cent per litre rebate on gasoline and diesel fuel used in commercial activities. It is extended for a year to January 1, 1988. That is over 13 cents a gallon for every fisherman out there in his boat. In the inshore fishery or otherwise, he pays 13 cents a gallon less for his fuel. That is what is there for fishermen.

There is the extension of the Small Business Bond, the capital gains tax exemption, and the increase in the refundable tax credit for R and D. The 12.5 per cent tax on dividend