

*The Budget—Mrs. Anderson*

business, a three-person business needing not only additional accounting resources, but a whole new training on this. It is going to be a complex procedure. It is not clear yet what the mechanisms will be. It will be a substantial cost to small business. I can assure the House that it is a substantial concern to small business people at the moment.

• (1610)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Resuming debate with the Hon. Member for Simcoe Centre.

**Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre):** Mr. Speaker, it is a great honour to rise to debate in the House today for the first time as the elected representative of the constituency of Simcoe Centre. I do so with a very keen sense of history.

It was 72 years ago that my grandfather, the Hon. James Chaplin, Conservative Member of Parliament for Lincoln, and Prime Minister Arthur Meighen's Minister of Trade and Commerce, sat three rows down and four seats over to do likewise.

Today, in the throes of embarking upon my new career, retirement now long behind me, I reflect on the counsel he gave to me as a child. He spoke of Canada. He spoke of building a better Canada. He spoke of building a better Canada for future generations, for his granddaughter's generation. Today, in that very same spirit, we are here in an attempt to demonstrate how we view our legacy.

The Budget we are now debating speaks to passing on to our grandchildren a nation better than we found it. Although I am new to this place, I have lived my life and raised my children in a part of this country where it is understood that one does not live beyond his or her means. I understand that. My constituents understand that. They know that we cannot keep borrowing simply to pay the interest on what has already been borrowed. In the real world one goes broke or becomes bankrupt when those loans are called in, and then there are no choices.

As a nation our flexibility to pay for caring and compassionate social programs would be eliminated. Our ability to compete in the world would be eliminated. Our

choices of how we want to live as a nation would be eliminated. Governments would have to raise more and more money out of everybody's pocket just to stand still. That money would not go to social programs, or to alleviating regional disparities, or to defending our nation. It would simply go to paying the interest, not the principal. So taxes inevitably go up, and so would inflation and interest rates. Programs would be decimated as we spent just about all our revenues on merely the interest.

As the television commercial states: "You can pay me now or you can pay me later". The problem is that it is not those of us here today who will be paying more later. It will be our children and our grandchildren.

The Government and the Party I have the privilege to represent understand that. We know why we are here. We know our responsibility goes beyond the next election or the next leadership convention. We have acted.

The growth of the public debt which averaged 23.5 per cent a year over the four years ending in 1984-85 has been reduced to an average annual growth of 12.7 per cent over the four years just ended. By 1988-89, the growth in debt will have declined to 9.9 per cent. That is the first time in 15 years that the debt growth has been less than 10 per cent. However, if controlling the public debt is our objective, then deficit reduction is our means.

From 1984 to 1989, the budgetary deficit was reduced from \$38 billion to \$29 billion. Relative to the size of the economy, the deficit fell from 8.6 per cent to 4.8 per cent of Gross Domestic Product. The provisions of this Budget, along with sustained economic growth, will reduce the deficit to \$15 billion in 1993-94. This is very real progress indeed.

By carefully balancing revenue increases and expenditure reductions, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) has put before the House a comprehensive plan for addressing the national debt. Not driven by some blind allegiance to antiquated micro or macro-economic theories, the Budget has as its reason for being the need to preserve for future generations—for the grandchildren—an ability to continue to make choices. The Government knows all about making choices; the right choices.