

The Budget—Mr. Valcourt

children and their children, which is what has been happening.

Hon. Members opposite, my good friends the Liberals and socialists, would do well to go back and speak to the people they claim to represent. I do not think they have a corner on representing ordinary Canadians as is their claim to fame. We know how well they served them in the past.

We on this side of the House were elected by ordinary Canadians. I was home on the weekend and spoke to a lot of ordinary Canadians in northwestern New Brunswick, Madawaska and the County of Victoria. I did not meet one person who took offence to the measure in the Budget to tax people earning above \$70,000 a year so they would pay back some of the money given to them under family allowances and old age pensions.

I have not met one person in the streets of Edmundston, St. Basile, Grand Falls or Perth who takes offence to the fact that back home that great New Brunswicker whom I respect very much, K. C. Irving, should have to send back the old age pension that he receives every month. K. C. would not need it for his breakfast. I fail to appreciate and understand why, given the massive debt that we as Canadians shoulder, the people on the other side of the House are not applauding this measure introduced in the Budget of the Minister of Finance. If this is not done, then something else will have to be done. We cannot say that we will cut expenditures, reduce the annual deficit, and keep on spending like drunken sailors. We just cannot.

• (1520)

Members opposite will point to the odd expenditure which takes place about which the Government does not even know. There are stupid expenditures taking place out there, I recognize that. However, when we look at the broad picture and the transfer of moneys from the federal Government on to the taxpayers of Canada, they may think that they fool Canadians. Maybe they were fooling them for a while because they think that the money is coming from Ottawa. Ottawa is not giving anything to Canadians. It is just going into the pockets of Canadians, taking money, and redistributing it to the same taxpayers. There is no free lunch. The Budget is about just that. There is no more free lunch. We cannot keep on spending the way we have done without controlling the situation.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I have heard a number of accusations coming from the other side of the House, and as far as I am concerned, I can say that in his Budget, the Minister of Finance has proposed a firm, realistic and responsible approach to our public finances, an approach this Government has been taking since 1984. The Liberals and socialists opposite would have Canadians believe that we just found out about the national debt, that this is the first time the Government ever mentioned the debt, and that we tried to hide this from voters during the last election campaign. Mr. Speaker, it takes a lot of nerve to make a statement like that!

During the election campaign, and it is all there on the record, the Prime Minister said on several occasions, including the morning when the election was called, that we had to tighten public spending and manage Government expenditures responsibly. The Minister of Finance talked about this. What is more, during the election campaign the Chairman of the Finance Committee said, when discussing the proposed national sales tax, that the Government would raise \$18 or \$14 billion more. This was Blenkarn, the well-known chairman of the committee. This was quite a bombshell, Mr. Speaker, and imagine, the same guy who was shouting that the Minister was taking money out of the pockets. This went on for three hours during the election campaign. During the campaign, the white-collar Socialists and the Liberals were trying to scare people. They were indulging in intellectual terrorism across this country on the issue of the Free Trade Agreement. Even if we had wanted to talk about the deficit, they would never have given us a chance, because they just were not interested in Canada's finances. Those are the people who, during 20 years, have brought Canada on the brink of bankruptcy. It is the legacy which they left us.

Unfortunately, I only have two minutes left, and I would like to take this opportunity to invite my colleagues opposite to seriously consider—and I don't know if they can do that—supporting the measures contained in this Budget, because it is the turning point that will allow future generations of Canadians to benefit also from the government programs and services which our generation can enjoy today.

Mr. Speaker, you don't have to be a prophet to predict that if we do not accept these measures, if we do not adopt them, 15 or 20 years from now, it will no longer be 35 cents of each Canadian taxpayer's dollar that will be