

The Budget—Mr. Keeper

the Government increased the tax load of ordinary families and reduced services which affect all Canadians.

The Government has slashed off more than \$2 billion from regional industrial expansion services. The Government cut down employment expenditures by \$1.78 billion, yet more than one million Canadians are without work.

Mr. Parry: What a shame!

Mr. Keeper: Indeed, Mr. Speaker, what a shame, as my colleague just said.

Mr. Speaker, not satisfied with cut-backs in employment services, the Government also reduced services in agriculture, health and social welfare.

Mr. Speaker, this \$4.82 billion cut in the Health and Welfare budget is particularly significant. At a time when we need to improve day care services in Canada, the Government is reducing its spending in a sector that is supposed to cover those services.

Mr. Speaker, the Government has also reduced its spending on transportation. Here cuts will total \$3.61 billion. It is rather strange, because a Government that promised to boost passenger transportation services is now heading off in another direction by asking for cuts in this area.

● (1740)

Mr. Speaker, I intend to prove that this Conservative Budget is unfair. The Budget has added to the inequity in our tax system. For instance, this year personal income tax will increase almost four times as much as corporate taxes. Taxes for individual Canadians will increase \$1.1 billion, compared this with an increase of \$380 million for corporations. And between now and 1990, personal income taxes will increase ten times as fast as corporate taxes.

Mr. Speaker, these statistics show that the tax system introduced by this Government is unfair and that the new tax increases have compounded the inequities of the tax system.

Another thing I want to say, Mr. Speaker, is that the Government did not have the courage to come to grips with a critical problem affecting the whole country, and I mean unemployment. The Government set its sight on the deficit reduction, but apparently a reduction in the unemployment rate is simply out of range.

At the same time the Government cut about \$200 million off the budget allocated to the Canadian Jobs Strategy program.

Mr. Speaker, the Government did make a forecast concerning the employment level, but it also indicated that the decrease in the number of jobless would be minimal.

Mr. Speaker, this Budget is unfair because it increases the tax load of ordinary families while at the same time granting tax exemptions to big companies.

An Hon. Member: Some exemptions!

Mr. Keeper: Mr. Speaker, how can the Government increase the tax load of ordinary families and still maintain the lifetime capital gains tax exemption? How can the Government boost personal income taxes ten times faster than corporate taxes?

Mr. Speaker, it is unfair and the Government must withdraw the Budget and take a new approach to set our economy back on track. Time has come to have a fair tax system in this country, and that must be the priority of the Government.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being 5.45 o'clock p.m., it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 84(7), to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith the question necessary to dispose of the amendment now before the House.

Accordingly, the question is on the amendment. Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra), moved:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting the following therefor:

this House condemns the Government for presenting a Budget that imposes outrageous and unfair tax increases for ordinary Canadians that deliberately widen the gap between them and the rich and poor and between the 'have' and 'have not' regions of this country.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.
And more than five Members having risen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Call in the Members.

The House divided on the motion (Mr. Johnston) which was negated on the following division:

(Division No. 205)

YEAS
Members

Allmand
Angus
Axworthy
Benjamin
Berger
Blackburn
(Brant)
Boudria
Broadbent
Caccia

Deans
de Corneille
Dingwall
Epp
(Thunder Bay-Nipigon)
Finestone
Fulton
Gagliano
Garneau
Gauthier

Gray
(Windsor West)
Guilbault
(Saint-Jacques)
Heap
Henderson
Hovdebo
Johnston
(Saint-Henri-West-
mount)