

The Budget

We will help families who cannot make ends meet in these hard times. Poor, economically vulnerable families will find in that single monthly benefit of \$143 per child, more than \$1,700 a year, a boost to their well-being and to the improvement of their living standard.

That is another vital aspect of this budget we must remember. Of course, the home ownership measure will produce a sense of security, of economic progress and will also create for our families, our children, a better living environment, a new quality of life.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, this budget costs little. Of course we could have spent billions more, we could have added expenses to the deficit and transferred the whole thing to the debt. We could have done all that, but our concern, our priorities do not reside in this short-term view based on spending billions and billions; quite to the contrary, we wish to arouse a sense of effort, an enthusiasm for more competitive communities through dignity in our families.

The third aspect of this budget is that it is economical. We had to give it some thought and make internal transformations so that our population could strive at getting better living conditions and a better outlook on life. In this regard, we had decisions to make. For example, we had to eliminate a total of 46 government agencies in order to get the money we will be distributing to people. What I mean, is that the budget contains cuts but the amounts saved are given back to the people who need it, through other equitable and fair measures or programs. Of course, as some people said, the cuts could have been more severe.

But first, the government had to retarget those cuts to make them efficient and to give some dignity to Canadian families. Therefore, I see this budget as a responsible measure that really addresses the problems and, most of all, that does not compromise the future of our community.

As a matter of fact, the day after the budget, I saw some very interesting things, Mr. Speaker. We can always be accused of partisanship, but on February 25, I read in *The Globe and Mail* an editorial entitled "A Good Recipe For Tough Times". It is a good headline. It

reflects the ingenuity that the minister demonstrated in his budget, and I quote:

[*English*]

"Finance Minister Mazankowski faced a number of challenges as he prepared his first budget. He has credibly addressed each of the challenges without succumbing to the ill-considered advice of provincial premiers and others who demanded that Ottawa try to spend its way out of the recession. Mr. Mazankowski has found ways to intelligently support a recovery".

[*Translation*]

That is a responsible government. There is another title on which I could elaborate with successive quotes. Mr. Dubuc, of *La Presse*, entitled his editorial "Wilson's Iron Hand, Mazankowski's Velvet Glove". And there are many more. People are just expressing their satisfaction with regards to how, in a long-term strategy, despite all the difficulties, this government has been able to control inflation, lower interest rates and put itself in a position to restore confidence.

Another headline: "Budget Brings Confidence, Business Community Seems Encouraged." I used those quotes to show without any partisanship, that some people see this budget as a responsible and courageous measure.

In closing I want to say to all Canadians that to govern does not mean only to look after tomorrow's needs. It means to think about the Canadian family 10 years from now, to improve the quality of life, of the environment, of education and of work conditions. It is in that perspective that the government tabled this budget. Again I am proud to be part of this government because it was able to take its responsibilities.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being 1.48 o'clock, I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m.

The House took recess at 1.48 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.