

tax?" I read the budget and it was not in there. I get all kinds of mail about new government programs, new taxes and all that kind of stuff. I have not seen any of that. I have called both offices and they have no information on that. I called our critic. No information there. We called the Library and there was no information there. Why did the Government of Canada see fit to put a tax on student loans and did not bother to tell anybody until it began to apply the tax? If the purpose of the exercise is to inform the public, this seems to be one example, at least, of where it chose not to inform the public.

What is wrong here is that the concept of what the government is trying to do does not fit into the reality of the day. There is nobody here who could not give you chapter and verse on government waste, I am sure. There is probably nobody left in the country who could not do that.

There is nobody in the country who is afraid of competition. The problem really is that competition and lectures on the values of competition usually come from those who no longer compete. When you are in the trenches, when you are struggling for a job and when you are trying to compete in the workplace, it is not exactly a pleasant experience. It only becomes one after you leave that particular venue and you occupy some higher place.

I do not think the people of Canada need lectures on restraint any more. I do not think they need this kind of simplistic legislation any more. What they need is a government that has some sense of what it is like to be employed anywhere in Canada in this day and age. What is necessary is a government to have some sensitivity that the province of Ontario is going through a massive restructuring of its economic base and that is hurting. That pain is beginning to be translated into municipal budgets. The provincial budget of last spring was certainly an expression of that.

Ontario is, perhaps, one good example of a province that is trying to be a little bit creative about social assistance programs, to provide a little more flexibility and to provide something a little more positive than a welfare cheque. But it is caught now because it is trying to put those changes into effect in the middle of a massive restructuring of its economy with a downturn to boot. It is caught in a very dangerous position.

Government Orders

I believe the Government of Canada ought to rethink this program. This program does not apply to this time and this place in this nation. It is quite wrong-headed.

The federal government cannot lecture the current government in Ontario for running up substantial debts when it has on the books the laws that make the government run up those debts. The government in Ontario is simply trying to buffer a little bit, as much as it can, those municipalities and those school boards and it is struggling to do that.

I would prefer to see this government drop this notion. This kind of a bill does not work. Look at the reality of the day and do what governments ought to do; respond to the real needs of the people they are supposed to represent.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity this afternoon to participate in this debate on Bill C-32.

You will recall that this morning that I read excerpts from that infamous book known as *Where I Stand* by a well-known Canadian author and not so good politician. That well-known Canadian author and not so good politician wrote this book a number of years ago, telling us about the importance of contributing in the area of education and training in this country.

Education, of course, falls within the authority of the province. But the Government of Canada needs to contribute to it, in order to make sure that it happens so that we have a well trained and well equipped workforce in this country.

What is the government doing? It is cutting back on transfers to the provinces.

[*Translation*]

In the case of my own province, the province of Ontario, \$1 billion will be cut this year from transfers to the provincial government, one billion!

• (1540)

I see the minister opposite, and I am sure he will realize that cuts totalling one billion and the fact that in Ontario we have a government that is not too good at government administration, that these two factors combined will have a disastrous impact on Ontario. So we have those budget cuts I just described and the people of Ontario are suffering.