

The Budget—Ms. K. Campbell

With respect to the area of Established Programs Financing, the federal Government makes these payments to the provinces for both health care and post-secondary education. The responsibility for funding education for Indians on reserves rests with the Ministry of Indian and Northern Affairs and is not affected by this Budget. Furthermore, funding for such items as post-secondary education, housing, and social assistance remain unaffected. Services and funding have in fact been increased.

I have just come back from British Columbia where I met with a number of groups, including non-profit organizations from my riding, as well as business leaders. After a week of meetings in my region, I was struck by how responsible and responsive this Budget in fact is. I can tell you, contrary to the comments made yesterday by the Hon. Member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca (Mr. Barrett) the business community was not overjoyed by this Budget.

The challenge of making expenditure reductions often seems very simple to business. It is more complex for those of us trying to do it within Government. Members of the Opposition have tried to paint this Government and this Budget as friendly to big business. I can tell you that the business community had some pretty frank words for this Budget. They did not think we went far enough.

My meeting with the non-profit groups provided me with another vantage point. They were concerned, naturally, with expenditure reductions. I took the time to listen to both of these opposing views, as well as to representations from many other groups. I have come to the conclusion that the approach of the Minister of Finance was both fair and even-handed.

As a national Government, we have an obligation to Canadians to get our fiscal house in order and at the same time to invest in programs and policies that provide a return to our society in general. This is a Budget that does not simply deal with the problems of today. It does not simply deal with the questions and programs the Government has to deal with in today's society. It is a Budget that ensures that we will be able to continue to deal with the issues and the important challenges of Canadian society for the future.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions or comments. The Hon. Member for Broadview—Greenwood.

Mr. Mills: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member. I listened with fascination to your concern about the debt. We are all concerned about the debt. However, I would like to ask you a very specific question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would like the Hon. Member to direct the question to me, please.

Mr. Mills: Mr. Speaker, my question is, on the north shore of Vancouver there is an organization called Ballard Industries. It is a small organization. It employs about 30 or 40 people. It is an environmentally friendly organization. They have clean air technology. They have developed this clean air technology through a solid polymer fuel cell. This industry is looking for support from the national Government to the tune of about \$10 million. Their prospectus shows that within 10 years they can create a billion dollar industry in British Columbia alone.

My question is, when the Minister is confronted with a situation like this, what is her reaction and how does she treat an industry like this?

Ms. Campbell (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. He raised the issue of Ballard Industries with me yesterday outside the House and asked if I was familiar with it. I am not. There are two points I would like to make in response to his question. First, viable technologies which have the kind of potential financial return which the Hon. Member suggests this particular industry has, are technologies that should be invested in by the private sector. If money is scarce in the private sector, it is a reflection of two problems. One, Government edging that money out, Government providing a secure place for people to put their money as opposed to encouraging them to participate in the risk capital enterprises that are so important to the financial health of our society, and second, the cost of money itself, which is a reflection of the scarcity as a result of Government's enormous presence in that financial market. We have as a very important part of our Government policy programs to encourage private enterprise in the way that we believe it should be encouraged, and that is for Government not to take the responsibility of innovation and creating industries, but to provide assistance where necessary.

When I was in Vancouver last week I presided over a series of announcements on behalf of my hon. colleague the Minister responsible for the Western Diversification Fund. Our Government has in fact provided very important assistance to many innovative business people in the Vancouver area who are seeking assistance and