

The Budget

Mr. Turner (Halton—Peel): What about the debt?

Mr. Young (Gloucester): The member talks about the debt. We know that Canadians from coast to coast are talking about the debt, a debt that went from \$170 billion to over \$350 billion in five years. Why would they not be talking about the debt? It is the kind of debt accumulation that has never been seen in the history of this country. That is why they are talking about it.

The alternative for the federal government to the debt in large part which it created is to turn it over to the provinces and the municipalities. The government says: "Let's not take responsibility for it ourselves. Let's not be strong enough, confident enough and forthright enough to say we caused it. We will take care of it. We will take the heat. Let's slough it off on the 10 provinces and the territories".

With the challenges facing youth today should we be cutting summer employment programs? Should we be telling the young people in this country: "Forget it, there is no job for you this summer"?

What about research and development? How are we going to compete? We are talking about level playing fields. We are imposing a goods and services tax at 7 per cent that our biggest competitor to the south does not have. We are cutting the opportunities to be able to compete on a level playing field.

What about the lack of commitment even to talk about the crisis in the Atlantic fishery? How did it come to pass that with all the members from the west who sit to your right, Madam Speaker, there was not even a passing comment on what is happening to western farmers?

An hon. member: And British Columbians.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): What has happened to British Columbians? The *Polar 8* was not just an ice-breaker; it was a symbol. I know that the premier of British Columbia, his finance minister and British Columbians generally will be able to make the argument not just on the basis of economic necessity but on the kinds of things that contribute to further alienation of that great province and the people who live in it.

What about the reduction in money available to provinces for health care? When I am here in Ontario I read the press concerning what is happening with respect to waiting lists and people going to the U.S., people who

can afford to pay for their own operations leaving the country because the waiting lists are so long.

Is this the time to be saying to veterans who need health care: "It is going to cost you \$3,000 a year. If you have a spouse that kind of money comes out of your budget. You have not done enough for Canada. We are going to squeeze a bit more out of you"? Is that the kind of Canada that is part of the vision of the finance minister and this government?

What about small business? It has been a very dependable ally of this government for years.

What I am concerned about is the suggestion by members of the government that anyone who raises these questions does not understand. Who is a better friend of this government than the president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, John Bulloch? What does he say about the goods and services tax? He says that it is a nightmare on main street.

Mr. Turner (Halton—Peel): He likes the budget.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): The hon. member says that he likes the budget. That is not at all what he said. He does not like the budget. He likes some parts of it, but he does not like the budget.

The selective kind of response we get is that if you are against the goods and services tax, if you are against what this government does, it is because you do not understand what it are trying to do. Why does the government not give John Bulloch and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and its 80,000 members an opportunity to tell it what they really think about the goods and services tax?

Why not go to Alberta, which I will be doing on March 5 to debate the Minister of Finance, where a few hundred people will have an opportunity to sit in the public forum we will be involved in that evening? The finance minister and I are going to spend a lot of money to get to Alberta. It would be nice for Albertans to be able to get to a nice big meeting, in a nice public place where it does not cost \$100 to be able to attend by invitation only.

It would be nice to have Mr. Bulloch and my hon. friend who has been interjecting attend that meeting, as well as to invite the leader of the Reform Party and some people from New Democratic Party. Mainly the people of Alberta should be invited to make sure that they understand what the goods and services tax is all about