

The Budget—Mr. J. N. Turner

[English]

How about fishermen? In November, fishermen were subjected to a cut of \$40 million. Their fees for weather reports, dockage and berthing were raised. This Budget imposes an additional \$25 million cut on fishermen. The average fisherman in British Columbia, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec or Newfoundland uses thousands of litres of fuel per year. I have not been able to obtain that statistic as I was able to do for farmers, but the two-cent increase in fuel taxes means that fuel will cost fishermen hundreds of dollars more.

● (1620)

I now turn to the subject of mining, which is a major industry in British Columbia, the province which I have the honour to represent. Mining is not even mentioned in the Budget. There is not even one single line with respect to it in the budget speech or in any of the supporting documents. Where are the promised changes to the tax system to encourage exploration, processing and development? There is not one single line with respect to those changes.

I would now like to deal with another major industry in British Columbia, that is, forestry. Where is the aid for B.C.'s declining forest product companies? Why is there not assistance to allow for recapitalization of these companies through transfer of tax bases, capital cost allowances and investment tax credits to investors? When one reads the letters investment bankers send out with respect to the Budget one sees that they state, "Stay away from western forest product companies". That is exactly what has been said. Where is the promised increased funding for the Canadian forestry service and the regional forestry agreements? Where is the national forestry internship program which the Government promised during the election campaign?

With respect to the areas of forestry, fisheries, mining—and I will mention tourism in a minute—there is nothing in the Budget. The Province of British Columbia is a monumental loser with respect to this Budget.

Let us now consider VIA Rail. The Government is cutting service with respect to this corporation by some \$200 million per year. This hits the outlying regions of the country. The new philosophy seems to be, "Use it or lose it". This from a Party which vowed to reinstate VIA Rail routes. It is the end of a commitment to the disadvantaged regions of the country.

The Government is cutting regional industrial incentives by \$100 million this year and by \$100 million next year. Business will concentrate through the private sector in central Canada. The weakest regions of the country are being hit. Cape Breton has been devastated by this Government. The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) promised, and I am quoting her words:

My plan (in Cape Breton) to close the two heavy water plants will not proceed before alternate employment opportunities can be found for displaced workers.

What do they do? There is no plan for employment in Cape Breton. There is no economic plan for less disadvantaged areas. All we have for Cape Breton is a so-called tax free zone.

That is a joke. Without the infrastructure in place, where can we get the private sector to invest in Cape Breton?

I would now like to speak about another region which has been absolutely devastated right here in the Ottawa Valley. I am speaking of Deep River, Chalk River, Arnprior, Pembroke and Renfrew. Funds to Atomic Energy of Canada have been cut by some \$100 million. In addition, \$70 million of its earned surplus has been diverted into government revenues. That is a devastating comment with respect to what we are doing through the Government to Canadian research.

In my hand, Mr. Speaker, I have an advertisement which appeared in *The North Renfrew Times* on August 22, 1984, which is entitled "The P.C. Commitment to Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories. Elect Don Whillans. Time for Change". The advertisement states:

Chalk River has been the heart and soul of this nuclear program. A P.C. government will not only maintain this facility, it will consider providing additional funds to allow greater Canadian involvement in the massive fusion energy projects underway in other countries, building on the Laboratory's experience with tritium-based fusion cycles.

The future of Chalk River is closely linked to our Party's commitment to research and development. We will develop a co-ordinated approach to government-sponsored research, strengthening the linkages between public sector and private sector research activities, and setting priorities in close consultation with provincial government engaged in similar research.

This is the Progressive Conservative commitment: Job security for you—and jobs for your children.

How about that?

Some Hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I wish to show you, Mr. Speaker, a copy of the *The North Renfrew Times* for Wednesday, May 29—today. The headline is "Budget Gores AECL". On the front page of the newspaper is reprinted the advertisement to which I have just referred. It has been surrounded in black crepe. I understand the rules with respect to this matter, Mr. Speaker, and I will desist. However, I wish to show visibly how hypocritical the Government has been.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The Minister of Finance has said, "The approach we are following in Cape Breton reflects the basic philosophy of this Government". I tell you, if I lived in the Atlantic provinces, Gaspé, northern Ontario, up in the Ottawa Valley, or even in parts of western Canada, I would not take the Minister's commitment too seriously. The Minister has also said, "We must ensure that adjustment takes place in a humane way". That is like saying to a condemned man on death row, "Do you want the noose, the electric chair or would you like it intravenously?" That is what this Government is saying.

What about tourism, which is so important to British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada? The largest potential customer for our tourist industry is the United States. What have we done in this regard? We have raised gasoline prices and liquor prices. Frank Miller, on his last leg, breathing his last priministerial air, claims he kept the price of