

The Budget—Ms. Callbeck

raised the matter of Highway 50, which is essential to the economic development of Western Québec. In 1972, a federal-provincial agreement provided for the construction of the section from Hull to Buckingham. Subsequently, there were annual attempts to obtain another federal-provincial agreement. The Minister is getting a lot of mail. He has heard Québec's views on the subject. Since his own colleague and the Government of Québec are requesting it, why can he not consider the possibility of negotiating a federal-provincial agreement for the extension of Highway 50 to Lachute and Mirabel Airport?

Mr. Bouchard (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I agree we have had a lot of correspondence on the matter with the Government of Québec. The federal Government, however, is not primarily responsible for highways. That responsibility lies with the Government of Québec, which is entirely free to build roads as it sees fit. If it wants to build the section between Masson and Lachute, it is entirely free to do so. The real problem is the agreement. There is an agreement between Québec and the federal Government that was signed in 1985 and expires in 1990, and we shall see whether the agreement is renewed next year. The fact remains that the Government of Québec never made Highway 50 a priority, and not only that, it has always stated, through Mr. Côté, that development of this section of Highway 50 would have to be done under an agreement. I must say I share that view. This means that we will first see whether the agreement is renewed in 1990, and if that is the case, the Government of Québec will tell us exactly what its priorities are.

In the list produced by Mr. Côté, Highway 30 was higher than Highway 50 and involved a federal contribution of \$100 million for a bridge over the St. Lawrence Seaway near Valleyfield.

I am not saying that Highway 50 will not be built but, I repeat, Québec will have to define its priorities under a new agreement, and when it does, we will see what happens. I repeat, it is a mistake to think that the Government of Québec is not free to build. In fact, it is the province's responsibility. The federal Government is not responsible for roads. That is Québec's responsibility.

• (1200)

You will notice that I did not approach this subject in my speech because roads are a provincial responsibility. I

am not saying it will not be done, but it will have to be done under an agreement to be negotiated at a later date.

[English]

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, on April 27, Canadians and the people of Prince Edward Island woke to the news that the federal Budget had been leaked after the alleged theft of one of its documents. Now, as the effects of this Budget slowly begin to sink in, I can tell the Government one thing for sure. The people of my province wish that the entire Budget had been stolen and never found.

Nevertheless, critics and commentators have been coming up with the winners and the losers in this year's Budget. It is not hard to figure out into which category the Province of Prince Edward Island fits. The Government's Budget has hit every aspect of the Prince Edward Island economy. The most brutal blow came from the announcement that CFB Summerside was listed for closure.

The impact of this callous decision is yet to be fully realized. Yet, together with the increases in personal income tax, increases in excise tax, increases in the federal sales tax, cut-backs in regional development, cut-backs in the funding of hospitals and education, and the list is never-ending, Islanders are the real losers. The Government's plan to introduce a national sales tax in 1991 will place another burden on the Island's fragile economy. All in all, the 1989 federal government Budget is devastating to the Province of Prince Edward Island.

When the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), was last in Prince Edward Island, he spoke in Summerside during the fall election campaign. He spoke to the area's senior citizens. He commended the gathering, advising them that they personified the core values on which this nation was built. He identified those values as being the family, the community and the country. These values also represent the heart and soul of Prince Edward Island, but it is these values which have been most abused by the recent Budget.

Islanders are proud of their heritage and their role in Canada's development. Our motto reads, "The small under the protection of the great". After this Budget, our motto should be changed to read, "The small left to fend for itself".