

*The Budget**[English]*

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I listened to the hon. member with interest. He indicated that we must have a positive outlook. It is very difficult for the 1.5 million people who are unemployed to have a positive outlook after this budget.

I particularly want to question the member about what this budget has done to students because he failed to mention that area.

As we all know, this government has been extremely hard on students. It brought in the GST and it even taxed books. It added an extra cost for a student going to university or any institution.

The government has cut the Established Program Funding to provinces. We all know how that affected the student. That cut made tuition costs go up.

There have been cuts to student employment programs, and the list goes on and on and on.

This budget, which you would think would introduce something positive for students, abolishes the six-month free interest period on student loans after graduation. Does the government not realize that 1.5 million people are unemployed, that jobs are very scarce for students? It is very hard for our young people to find a job or a position after graduation.

I want to ask whether the hon. member agrees with me that it is time for this government to stop attacking students?

[Translation]

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say very simply that in the budget—I do not have the full text here, only the main points—the education credit relief for tax is being increased from \$60 to \$80 per month of full-time study, starting in 1992. Second, the maximum tuition fee and education credits that may be claimed by another taxpayer will be increased from \$600 to \$680.

We are talking about the 1992 budget. You might recall that a few years ago we set up a program called

Challenge, which allowed students to be employed in their field of study in order to make some money before going back to school. This is not a new policy. This is not something we copied from someone else. This is the continuation of a policy designed by this government in 1984. I do not see why some people are trying to scare students by telling them that everything will be cut.

[English]

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville): Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to compliment the finance minister. I happen to think that he has crafted a splendid budget meeting many needs of Canadians.

He listened and I can recall discussions with him in the early to late fall. Some of my objectives were to make sure that we got that deficit down. My goal was the \$25 billion to \$27 billion range. Canadians wanted to see more results after what they have gone through. He then came in with a \$27.5 billion deficit.

I also asked the minister a question in the House about giving middle income earners a tax break. I specifically pointed to the surtax we introduced in 1985.

• (1300)

I am just delighted that he followed through on that issue by decreasing it from five per cent to three per cent.

Third, my constituents told me that this government must make another major reduction in expenses and the minister came through on that issue in a fine way.

I wanted to ask my colleague about the feedback he has received from his residents. I held my annual budget breakfast yesterday morning in Markham and the feedback from the 350 people in attendance was very positive. They were literally to a person, with a few exceptions, very strongly in favour and 200 out of the 350 people were high school students through corporate sponsorships.

Mr. Brewin: Anybody out of work?