

The Budget—Mr. Maltais

people to know their country and to find out about its opportunities. The main asset of a country is to make sure that the young are aware of the environment in which they will have to work, because Canada is not only the province of Quebec, the North coast, or Vancouver, it is the sum of all these regions, and the Katimavik program makes it possible.

On the subject of the Armed Forces, Mr. Speaker, how many young people or their parents have contacted their members as well as whether in the opposition or on the government side to find out what are their chances to get in the Armed Forces? For many of them, it is not only a last resort decision, but a choice, be they boys or girls. There are 17,000 of them who have already passed all the tests required by the Armed Forces and who are on a waiting list. The budget speech provides for 5,000 young people to be enrolled in the Armed Forces at a cost of \$75 million. I think it can be said that this is a budget for the young. In addition, more than \$300 million has been added to a training program for them. A team of experts is working together with the industry in order to help ease the difficult transition from school to the work place. It is a very interesting strategy which involves unions, business and non-organized labour. Young people must often be given at least an opportunity to enter the labour market. However when applying for a job with a company, and even a Crown Corporation, Mr. Speaker they are told that experience is a requirement, but they are never given the opportunity to acquire it.

The program introduced by the Minister of Finance will help ease this transition and will provide young people with job experience, the lack of which is often an impediment. This budget, I suggest, under the present circumstances is not only practical but down-to-earth and that is what was needed. Of course, it could have been based on all kinds of theories. This budget could be drafted in a completely different way, but would the results be any better? This is what I would like to hear from the other side. How could we put people back to work tomorrow morning? It would be interesting to hear something about this later on. For my part, I remember very well what happened when the Iron Ore company announced its lay-offs, Mr. Speaker. The first thing that the man who was then president of the company asked me . . . He came to Ottawa to meet the ministers concerned—and this shows, in my opinion, the gentlemanly attitude of Mr. Mulroney—and asked: What could the government do to help those who are laid off? He did not say that the company would pay. He came to ask for government assistance. In this regard, the budget provides assistance for the communities affected by all types of lay-offs.

Instead of taking a partisan attitude, Mr. Speaker, it would be interesting if the Hon. Members suggested additional solutions or better ones than those offered in the budget rather than being negative about every aspect of our proposals. It is obvious, Mr. Speaker, that more could have been done, and I would have been tempted myself to draw a caricature of

several reporters or cameramen taking pictures of the budget because one picture is worth \$200 million, and this means more jobs. If we need such photos to create more jobs, let us take some, by all means, let us make a feature film! What people want is work. We should therefore be thankful to the cameraman who did what has been called an addition to the budget. I find it marvelous.

However, I do not want to belabour the point and I shall simply say that the budget truly reflects the needs of the people. It is what we need at this time. It is exactly the level-headed formula that Canadian expected. I am convinced that within two months, there will be an extraordinary change of attitude in this country. Already today, we had phone calls from people who wanted to know if they were entitled to the homeownership grants. It is wonderful that the Minister of Finance thought of including this proposal because a home is often the most important security factor of a family, and most important, it represents equity for one's old age and the largest investment in the lifetime of an individual. And the Minister of Finance thought of it. He was sensitive to that need. In fact, the major characteristic of this budget is perhaps that it is sensitive to the needs of people. If we had to give a name to the budget, we would call it the action budget. That is what it is.

I am really looking forward to hearing the various Ministers begin to announce the programs which were proposed in the budget, Mr. Speaker. People will then be able to judge the budget by its results. They will realize that the budget offers something concrete. In this House, we often seem to be simply stating facts and developing frameworks, but for the people, it means hearing the noise of plants and seeing their smoke. In the past, there were many ecological complaints about the smell of manufactures. Nowadays, the smoke from a manufacture is like perfume, it is what people want to see, and the noise which bothered us in the past will now become a pleasant music to our ears. I believe that this is what people expect as a concrete result of this budget.

There would be a lot more to say, Mr. Speaker, because all kinds of measures could be set forth. But what I wanted to stress on this first day following the budget presentation is the expectations of people in my area. I wish Hon. Members could have a look at what is going on in my area, the change in attitudes between yesterday and today. People are beaming with hope, and a breeze of optimism is blowing over my constituency because the Minister has been so very sensitive to our people's expectations. Had the budget been of a different nature, I would not have hesitated to voice my feelings, and these would have been quite different had the budget not really reflected my constituents' expectations. And because I find in that budget almost exactly what my colleagues and I have been telling the Minister, we do commend him for his proposals. All I ask, because I see my time is up is that from the other side of the House co-operation be forthcoming for the adoption of ways that are of a creative and durable nature.