

[English]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 81—THE ENVIRONMENT

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa), moved:

That this House condemn the Government for failing to ensure fairness and equality to all Canadians, and for failing to make protection of the environment a priority.

He said: Mr. Speaker, nothing better illustrates the true nature of the Conservative Party of Canada than the Budget we have been debating in this House for the past week or 10 days. The Conservative Party, to put it bluntly, is completely two-faced. Conservative Members have one face for the people of Canada during an election campaign and another face for the people of Canada after they form a Government.

During the election campaign, not only the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and leading members of his Cabinet but Members of Parliament on the Government side then seeking re-election or election for the first time went around Canada talking about the importance of child care, the necessity of regional development programs, the fundamental importance of tax fairness, the preservation of the unemployment insurance scheme and the fact that social programs in Canada constituted a sacred trust.

• (1120)

After the election, after they get their majority, we discover that Dr. Jekyll is replaced by Mr. Hyde, and the true nature of the Conservative Party is revealed. The hypocrisy could not be more blatant. In fact when it comes to the duplicitous use of the language, George Orwell's *1984* could be retitled 1989 and set in Canada as a contemporary illustration of doublespeak. These guys, to put it bluntly, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), have the nerve to call their Budget fair. They have the effrontery to say that the greatest set of tax increases they want to impose on the people of Canada since the Second World War is equitable.

Is it fair to put a means test on pensions while more than 80,000 profitable corporations are left untaxed? Is it fair, with unemployment over 10 per cent in the regions, to cut regional development programs right across the country? Is it fair, with close to 1.5 million kids being denied access to child care programs, to have the party in

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power, that promised to move expeditiously on child care at the first chance with its Budget, to cut out all its commitment to expanding the number of child care spaces? Is it fair, with literally millions starving in the Third World, and we living in a prosperous part of this planet, part of a small minority, for the Government to take such a disproportionate cut out of programs designed to aid the poor and the wretched of this planet?

An Hon. Member: No way!

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, is it fair to talk about fairness itself in taxation when the record shows that, after this Governments' Budget goes into effect, the richest 1 per cent of Canadians compared to when the Tories were out of office and when they came back in 1984 will have their income tax cut by some \$900 while the average income tax increase—income taxes alone, not other taxes—for the average family will go up by some \$500? Is it fair to redistribute income upward from the average to the rich? It may be fair for the Conservatives, but it is not fair for us and it is not fair for the average Canadian.

Is it fair to see the aboriginal people of Canada, the real founding people of this part of the planet, living in the most deplorable circumstances of all Canadians, for the Government at this particular time to reduce their access to post-secondary education?

In this context, is it fair to be singling out, as the economic and social problem to be faced by Canada in the next couple of years, the deficit when more than \$34 billion of deferred taxes owed by the corporate sector in Canada is left untouched? It may be fair for the Conservatives to talk that way, but it sure would not be a concept of fairness held by people in the New Democratic Party.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Whatever the Minister of Finance may say in this House, whatever the Prime Minister may say outside and whatever the back-benchers of the Conservative Party may be saying all across Canada in the next few weeks trying to defend the indefensible, I note with interest and pleasure that a large majority of Canadians from Newfoundland to British Columbia in response to a question in the last three days about the fairness of this Budget and the fairness of this Government, have said overwhelmingly that this Budget is unfair. The people of Canada understand what is going on.