

*The Budget—Mr. Gervais**[English]*

Recently I had the honour to present a remarkable woman, Mrs. Annie Wilkes, with a plaque from the Prime Minister and with one from myself on her hundredth birthday. Mrs. Wilkes came to Iroquois Falls in 1916 by canoe, where she raised a large family while coping with a harsh climate and a lack of amenities and services which those in large centres took for granted. It is people such as Mrs. Wilkes and her younger associates who deserve and will get protection and help from the federal Government. In the Budget of the Minister of Finance, the Guaranteed Income Supplement continues to be fully indexed against inflation and benefits to veterans remain fully indexed.

The decision to rationalize soaring social costs, a central part of the deficit, was a courageous one. I commend the Minister of Finance for tackling the issue head on. Northern Ontario seniors have fought all their lives, and I sense in their comments both in my office and on the street that they are prepared once again to be part of the national effort. The decision to increase old age security payments by the amount which exceeds 3 per cent of annual hikes in the Consumer Price Index is a clear signal to the world that Canada and its Government are desirous about getting control of spending.

Despite the overwhelming need to get everyone involved in the fight to restore a balance to spending and income, the Government has found a way to help needy families with children. The child tax credit will be increased by \$70 per child, from \$384 to \$454, in the 1986 taxation year. This is important because of the large number of children in my riding—19,850 or 30.9 per cent under the age of 18 years at the time of the last census in 1981.

My riding is a perfect example of why the Government is trying to help low income families through the child tax credit system. Of the 16,505 families in my riding, there are 2,535 that earn less than \$10,000. This represents 15.4 per cent, and is just one of the many examples of Liberal Government policies harming Canadians who cannot help themselves. It is a situation which must be changed, and I will dedicate my term in the House to improving the lot of those families.

At this time I feel it is appropriate to explain my personal philosophy about the economy in general and its effects in my riding in particular. I feel Canada is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. As a nation which must trade to live, I believe we must use these resources. Therefore, the first point in my economic creed is to protect existing jobs and, where possible, to expand them. My second point is to build upon what we have. In northern Ontario, we have minerals and trees and a workforce of dedicated men and women who ask nothing of anyone but a chance to support their families through their own efforts. We in northern Ontario, in Timmins-Chapleau, have clean air, fresh water, wildlife and basically an unspoiled wilderness. I feel tourism is the answer when one considers how best to expand the economic base.

*[Translation]*

I am proud of my French heritage and my ability to communicate in both official languages of Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Gervais:** As regards bilingualism, I wish to inform the House that Timmins-Chapleau is an example for the nation: 31.7 per cent of the constituents speak French at home and 64.8 per cent speak English. However, 48.3 per cent of the residents of Timmins-Chapleau speak both French and English fluently.

*[English]*

I never forget, however, that people of many backgrounds played an important role in developing northern Ontario, especially my riding of Timmins-Chapleau. Ethnic groups, such as the Finns, Croatians, Ukrainians, Polish, Chinese, German, Italian and Jews, all played important roles in creating a cultural mosaic as varied and strong as any area in Canada.

• (1630)

It has often been said, and I am proud to repeat it here today, that Timmins—in fact, any community in my riding—is an example to the rest of the nation, and the world, with respect to how people from different ethnic backgrounds can work, study, play and live together. Among those playing a key role in the cultural development of the riding are the native people. While there are five reserves in my riding, only 220 native people have chosen to live on them. There are 825 living elsewhere. We are proud to have them as friends and neighbours.

I wish to state that I was born, raised and have lived all my life in northern Ontario and, more specifically, in the territorial district of Cochrane, in the federal riding of Timmins-Chapleau. I am proud to represent the residents of that riding.

*[Translation]*

I am very proud to be the first Progressive Conservative Member to be elected in the riding of Timmins-Chapleau.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Gervais:** Mr. Speaker, it shows clearly that my constituents wish more than anything else a positive change for Canada.

*[English]*

In closing, I am proud of My French-Canadian parentage. I am proud of my family. I am proud of the accomplishments of the residents of my riding. I am proud of my riding. Today, I am also proud to be a Member of the present Prime Minister's Government, a Government which has such people as the Minister of Finance in it. I am proud that he is our Minister of Finance. I am proud of his Budget.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!