

The Budget

That is why the member was in shock when he picked up page 138 and attempted to use it as an arrow in his bow. He found out he shot himself in the head which is not unusual for the member for Mississauga South.

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I was really dumbfounded when the member for Mississauga referred to the speech of my colleague, in this debate, as humour.

That is an insult to Canadians. My colleague most eloquently, more so perhaps than any member of this House, was able to reflect the needs of Canadians because he is sensitive and caring. That is what the Liberal Party is all about.

As I was listening to my colleague I learned a few more things. I learned that there is such a thing as Tory arithmetic. If you want to say that you are doing good, do bad things for six years and in the last two years pretend you are doing something good. In the equation, it will look like you are doing good. That cannot fool Canadians.

I also learned that Tory reality is fantasy. It is fantasy. It has forgotten about the unemployed, those forced to receive welfare assistance. I also learned that a Tory promise is one that is broken even before the last word is said or put on a piece of paper, as has been the case with the national child care program. I also learned that Tory honesty is when one plays a shell game.

I would like to ask the hon. member to comment further. I would like to listen to more of his eloquence so that Canadians can be truly represented in this House. I hope the hon. member from Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte would oblige.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, am I out of time?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): You have one and a half minutes.

Mr. Tobin: One and a half minutes.

An hon. member: You just got warmed up.

Mr. Tobin: No, I do not have to get warmed up. This government has warmed me up. It has put fire in my belly. It has redoubled my determination that I shall be there with the people of Canada when next this crowd has the courage to confront them at the polling booth.

I am delighted that the member for Mississauga South has again refired his interest and found his heart and is ready to go out and face his constituents. I find it passing strange that only a few months ago he had lost his heart, but obviously he thinks there is enough fantasy in this document to go out and face his constituents again.

In the part of the country where I come from, this document, this budget will never wash. You know the people of my province are proud to say when they see this kind of guff—and here comes the biggest guffer, the member from St. John's West—they are proud to say that we are from Newfoundland not Disneyland and this kind of fantasy will never fly where people put up with no guff from the likes of the member for St. John's West or, for that matter, the member for Mississauga South.

Ms. Barbara Greene (Don Valley North): Mr. Speaker, it has been quite entertaining sitting here listening to the blarney.

First of all, I would like to compliment the Minister of Finance on an excellent budget that I think makes progress in a number of important areas. I would like to concentrate my remarks on the changes in the social system in Canada that are presented in the proposal for child benefit changes.

Much of this came from the report of the child poverty committee that I chaired, as well as the family caucus committee that I also participated in. I think the earned income supplement is really something that is quite revolutionary for Canada and is something that we can be very proud of in introducing.

One of the things that our committee noticed was that people who escaped poverty in Canada were employed. They had jobs. In order to escape poverty you have to have a good job in Canada. One of our recommendations was that the minimum wage be set at a level equivalent to the low income cut-off for an individual. This is so in a few provinces in Canada, including Ontario and Quebec.

In Ontario, an individual can make, using the minimum wage, about \$12,480 for full-time work. A family with two income earners under this program, with the added earned income supplement will be out of poverty. They will be able to earn an income if they both work of \$27,500 in total with the child benefit, the low income cut-offs for Ontario for a large city. The highest one with