

*Oral Questions*

[English]

That is a \$140 million cut over four years for the CBC. The result is the end of regional programming and the Canadian content goals in television becoming impossible. This is the Tory agenda, the *de facto* privatization and commercialization of the CBC. It is the Americanization of Canadian culture.

I call upon the Canadian cultural community and all friends of the CBC to open up their windows and yell to the Minister of Culture (Mr. Masse): "We are fed up and we will not take these cuts anymore".

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**THE BUDGET**

## SUPPORT FOR MINISTER OF FINANCE

**Mr. Ken Hughes (Macleod):** Mr. Speaker, the people of my riding of Macleod tell me that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) is the best damn Finance Minister this country has ever had.

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

**Mr. Hughes:** He has the guts and determination to deal with the biggest problem this country faces, that is, the legacy of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), the deficit and the debt that this country carries.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

**THE BUDGET**

## IMPACT ON SOCIAL BENEFITS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I want to quote from an election speech the Prime Minister made on October 15 to senior citizens in Summerside, P.E.I. The Prime Minister will know where Summerside is. That is the community in P.E.I. that he is trying to destroy by shutting down the Canadian Forces Base.

This is what the Prime Minister told those senior citizens: "As long as I am Prime Minister of Canada, social benefits, especially those for the elderly, will be improved, not diminished by our Government".

As long as he is Prime Minister of Canada. How does the Prime Minister reconcile those words to the people of Summerside with the cut-backs in social benefits, including old age pensions, family allowances, health, education, unemployment insurance, regional development? All of these were announced in the Budget. Is this not election fraud by the Prime Minister? Is it not just another reason why the Minister of Finance and this Budget ought to be thrown out?

• (1120)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my right hon. friend will see, when he gets through reading the Budget that he declined to listen to yesterday, that social spending, including social spending for senior citizens, is increased in 1989 over 1988 and will be increased in 1990 over the previous years. All social spending in Canada will go up and that is consistent with what I have said.

**Mr. Turner:** There is no credibility to that statement any more than there is to what he said during the election campaign.

[Translation]

## ELECTION PROMISES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Minister of Finance. During the television debate in French, during the last election campaign, the Prime Minister of Canada said there was absolutely nothing to prevent the Government of Canada from maintaining all its social and regional economic expansion programs. Nothing at all. The Government was going to maintain all its social programs without fail, and there was nothing in the Free Trade Agreement to prevent that.

When I queried the information, the facts provided by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance called me a liar. Today, as a result of the Free Trade Agreement, the Budget contains cutbacks in regional development and unemployment insurance. My question to the Minister of Finance is: Who lied to Canadians?

[English]

**Ms. Copps:** Where's your mother now?

**Mr. Mulroney:** My mother is at home saying that her son the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance are doing an outstanding job for Canada.

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