

unemployment rate, and is now encouraged by our opposition colleagues simply to throw more money at the problem.

We in this Party recognize that meaningful job creation cannot be accomplished without the full co-operation of business, both large and small. The Budget introduced last week by my colleague, the minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), will work to create jobs because it frees Canadians to reach their full economic potential.

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[Translation]

### THE BUDGET

#### CONGRATULATIONS OFFERED TO MINISTER OF FINANCE

**Mr. Richard Grisé (Chambly):** Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 23, my hon. colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), brought down this Government's first Budget, a Budget that acknowledges the intelligence of Canadian men and women by giving them the tools they need to create the jobs Canada needs. As did many of my colleagues, I reported to my constituents in Chambly to get their reactions to the Budget. Many people, including owners of businesses, employees and others reacted very encouragingly to the measures proposed by the Government to reduce the deficit and to create a climate of confidence that will promote investment in Canada and put 1,400,000 people back to work, people who can now look to the future with optimism. Mr. Speaker, speaking on behalf of the constituents of the riding of Chambly, I want to offer the Minister of Finance our sincere congratulations for having chosen the right path, the one leading to Canada's economic renewal.

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[English]

### ENERGY

#### ANNOUNCED CLOSING OF HEAVY WATER PLANTS IN CAPE BRETON

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, last Thursday the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) announced in his Budget that the heavy water plants in Glace Bay and Port Hawkesbury would be closed down. This has indicated a certain callousness and indifference to the people of Cape Breton. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) had promised on more than one occasion that any decision with respect to the closure of the two plants would be withheld until replacement jobs had been found for all workers. The Government has now broken that commitment.

For the record, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, on November 23, 1985, said to the workers, and it was announced in *The Chronicle-Herald*:

I can assure you there will be no move made at all in that area unless there is a development plan in place to replace any employment effects associated with moving on the heavy water plants—

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In February of 1985, she said:

— any plans to close the two plants will not proceed before alternate employment can be found for displaced workers.

The Government has broken other promises as well. It promised consultation with the provinces, with management, with labour—with all sectors of Canadian society. Despite these lofty intensions the Government did not at any time seek to consult with the workers at Glace Bay and Port Hawkesbury. This is an astounding fact, when one considers that it is the workers themselves who are most directly affected by the plant closures.

I call upon the Government for some positive actions on behalf of the people of Canada, as opposed to the lofty promises and intentions which have yet to be realized or implemented.

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### PENSIONS

#### PENSION PLAN REFORM

**Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, on Thursday night we saw action on many fronts vital to the health of the nation. But few were as significant as that of pension reform.

After 10 years of obstruction and procrastination it took a Tory Government, a dynamic and responsive Government, to bring needed pension reform to this great country in only nine months.

These changes will provide more workers with the opportunity to join pension plans and to participate in the management of pension funds. These changes will protect workers who change jobs against the loss of pension benefits. It will provide workers after two years of plan membership with the right to their pension benefits, which they well deserve.

Most important, these changes will provide equal pensions for women and men retiring under identical circumstances, and will provide survivor benefits for spouses. These major reforms will provide for the splitting of pensions between spouses upon marriage breakdown. These measures will provide needed equity between men and women and, by doing so, the Tory Government is proving it believes that women should get their fair share.

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### SMALL BUSINESS

#### SMALL-BUSINESSMAN'S LETTER ON BUDGET

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, I received the following letter today. It reads:

As a small businessman, I was quite enthusiastic when I learned of the Budget's emphasis on rejuvenating the Canadian economy via a series of steps designed to enhance small business. I must admit, however, that the new Budget confuses me as to how it will help small business.