

The Budget—Mr. Keyes

Such a breach of trust is just as evident in the communications industry. A year ago, the Government's Minister of Communications came to an agreement with the magazine publishing industry. The Government would maintain a mail subsidy steady if the publishers would agree to a 12 per cent increase in magazine postal rates annually for five years. This Government's word is not worth a wooden nickel. One year later, this Budget proposes a series of cuts that will eliminate in just the first year \$10 million rather than maintain this subsidy. Of course, it will not simultaneously rule out the steady increase in postal rates. The goal again is not to enable but to cripple small businesses.

• (1640)

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this Government has made a wholesale assault on the CBC. Clearly the Government cannot be committed to the way CBC links a vast pattern of communities from coast to coast and into the far north in a network of communication and cultural support. The CBC, faced with drastic reductions in 1984, has been a highly responsible fiscal partner in the Canadian cultural enterprise. It deserves better than this cut of \$140 million over the next five years. This is another commitment broken.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the term clawback refers to the Government's attack on the universality of our distinctly Canadian social programs. It is also an appropriate symbol for this Budget as a whole. Clawback conjures up the image of some kind of berserk punishing grizzly bear slapping his paw and dismembering personal lives uncaringly, slicing bloody gashes in the social fabric of our Canadian way of life. This clawback of public commitments erodes good faith, which is the basis of any democratic vote. This Budget totally abandons the premises, promises and practices upon which this Government's mandate was granted. We demand that the Minister of Finance clawback this Budget.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Member for Hamilton West (Mr. Keyes) for a fine performance. That is exactly what it was, a performance. I am amazed that he does not spend his summers in Stratford because there would be a position for him there. He is a fine actor.

I want to thank you as well, Mr. Speaker, for allowing the Member to pay tribute to his Leader today who announced his resignation. I think it was appropriate that you allowed that. It was very appropriate that he should mention his Leader. But it is also appropriate that we

mention that the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) is the modern day father of the deficit which we inherited. The deficit can be traced back to the days when the Finance Minister, who is now the Leader of the Opposition, was the individual who carried the scenario forward. When we came to power in 1984, his party had overspent to the tune of \$42 billion.

An Hon. Member: No, you are wrong.

Mr. Thompson: Well, check the record. Mr. Speaker, they like to talk. They like to complain about the deficit. But it is like the old axiom: Everyone wants to complain about the weather, but nobody wants to do anything about it. What would the Member for Hamilton West do about it? He likes to complain, scream, holler and wave his hands and arms, but does he have a solution? My question is, Mr. Speaker, what would they do about it? What sort of plan would they bring forward that could be enacted to deal with the deficit?

Mr. Keyes: I want to thank the Hon. Member for his question, and preface my remarks by responding to what he said about the way I spoke. I cannot apologize for the way I speak, how tall I am, and what my beliefs are.

Mr. Thompson: It was a figure of speech.

Mr. Keyes: I will not apologize for speaking the way I do. What I believe in comes from the heart. When I speak here, I believe in what I say. My riding said, you will represent us in the House of Commons. I would respect the Hon. Member if he stood here passionately delivering what he believed in. So I cannot apologize for the way I make a delivery.

Beyond that, he speaks of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition should be the last person that the Hon. Member should accuse of mishandling public finances. If the Hon. Member checked his facts, he would see that the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition was the last Finance Minister to show a surplus in the Budget.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Keyes: I do not know what he is talking about. Now I will answer the question to which he made all the preamble. Certainly we recognize that there is a problem with the amount of money that is crushing Canada as far as the national debt is concerned. Of course we recognize that. I would be the last person to stand up in this House of Commons, as they should not do, and put that kind of responsibility on the backs of the unemployed, the elderly, on those less fortunate and those who live in the outreaches of this great country. I would be the last to do that kind of thing.