

The Budget—Ms. McLaughlin

Government doing? Is it putting more resources into alternate energy sources? No, it is taking them out.

How can the taxpayers trust the budgetary policy of the Government? I say they cannot. Previous speakers have talked about the debt. We are all concerned about the debt. It is important and we want to see it addressed.

I have some suggestions. What about a 20 per cent minimum corporate tax on profit-making corporations? What about not spending \$2.7 million on advertising to convince us that we have a deficit? We know we have a deficit. What about that \$3 million that we spent to have the post office convince us that it is great for us to privatize and take away our services, lower the wages of workers and try to destroy the postal system? There are three examples alone if the Government is looking for alternatives.

I would like to conclude by saying that the budgetary policy of the Government cannot be trusted by Members on this side of the House. It cannot be trusted by Canadians. It is a litany of broken promises. It is not a budget for the future, it is a budget for an immediate tax grab and in the long term, it will create inflation and higher unemployment, and it will have very serious consequences for Canadian taxpayers.

Mr. Gray (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, I commend the Hon. Member on her speech. I understand that perhaps she has aspirations of going further in the New Democratic Party, and I wish her the best of luck.

It would be fair to the House if we were to understand where she is coming from when talking about the Budget that was introduced by the best Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) this country has ever known. She suggested that we impose a 20 per cent extra tax on the rich people of Canada. That would involve a certain amount of money. That would be the proposal of the NDP and the Hon. Member, should she become the leader of that Party. The philosophy of this side of the House is that to balance the Budget the Government must on one side cut its operations and administration of programs, and on the other side tax. If the NDP Party believes that we must balance the Budget and attack our global national

deficit, could the Member give us some figures as to how she would bring our annual deficit down to zero?

• (1600)

Second, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Hon. Member for Yukon, assuming that she does have aspirations to the leadership of her Party, where she stands on the Meech Lake Accord since the Province of Québec would be brought officially into our constitution and into our Confederation. What does she think would be the state of investor confidence in the Province of Québec from outside the country and from other provinces?

Ms. McLaughlin: The first thing that I would do in order to reduce the debt, which this Government has doubled since coming into office, is to not elect Conservative and Liberal Governments that first created the debt and then continued the debt. That would be the first thing that I would do.

Since the Member opposite is interested in political ideology, when the New Democratic Saskatchewan Government was in power, it had a balanced budget. When the Manitoba New Democratic Government was in, it had a balanced budget. When the New Democratic Government of British Columbia left office, it had a \$300 million surplus, and social democratic countries such as Sweden not only manage to have a balanced budget, but to have an unemployment rate of under 3 per cent.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. McLaughlin: However, I will list again for the Member some specific suggestions because he may wish to take notes. The first suggestion that I mentioned is something that has been instituted in the United States. I do not always like to use the United States as a model but under Ronald Reagan there were some good ideas. The first is a 20 per cent minimum corporate tax on profit-making corporations. When you look at the deferred taxes that corporations have outstanding, which I believe is at \$36 billion at the moment, that is higher than the deficit. If we were to charge interest on those deferred taxes, that would be a way to raise revenue. I pointed out in my speech that a lot of money is spent trying to sell Canadians on this Government's policies such as the \$2.7 million spent to sell us and tell us that there is a deficit, the \$3 million spent by Canada Post to