

## S.O. 21

al tax measures to a wide range of northerners for the first time.

Let it never be said that the Government does not look after the poorer regions of Canada. Let the record show that the majority of Northerners applaud the courage of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) in bringing this increased tax equity to northern Canadians.

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[Translation]

## THE ECONOMY

## GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

**Mr. Richard Grisé (Chambly):** Mr. Speaker, in the Budget brought down last week by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) we see a development we have not seen since the beginning of the postwar period: a reduction in Government spending. Not only has this Government managed to bring a decade of irresponsible spending on the part of the previous administration to a halt, it has reversed the trend. Thanks to measures taken by our Government, the deficit will drop below \$30 billion and the increase in the national debt will be under control.

Our actions will increase the confidence of investors in Canada's prospects and will help bring down interest rates. This will provide for a continuum in the creation of jobs in this country, an area that under this administration has progressed remarkably well. Mr. Speaker, like all other Canadians, the people of the riding of Chambly agree with our Government that reducing the deficit and creating jobs should be our primary goals if Canada is to become prosperous once again.

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[English]

## THE BUDGET

## REACTION IN NEW BRUNSWICK

**Mr. W. R. Bud Jardine (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, what do New Brunswickers think of the Budget? I will quote from an editorial in the *Moncton Times and Transcript*. It reads:

Fair, firm, and probably effective. The Budget is unpleasant, but necessary medicine to restore economic health. It is a finely crafted intricate plan to cut spending, increase revenues, stimulate employment, encourage confidence in the dollar, lower interest rates, reduce the deficit and debt charges, yet give help to those regions, sectors, groups, and individuals most in need.

It is linked to trade and jobs, using the business sector as the engine of growth, and is intended to send a message to the financial communities at home and abroad, where there is no sentimentality, that the Government is serious in tackling the deficit.

## NATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## DELAY IN PROCESSING APPLICATIONS

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora-Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, I have stood in this House a number of times over the past few months to address problems concerning the Native Economic Development Program and, more specifically, its inability to achieve what it was mandated to accomplish. Since the Conservative Government took office it has continually reminded Canadians about efficiency, co-operation, and, of course, jobs, jobs, jobs. The experience of applicants to the NEDP leads me to believe that the opposite is in fact the rule of thumb.

Groups such as the Nishnawbe-Aski Development Fund, and the Yukon Indian Development Corporation have been frustrated for far too long by a Ministry which does not appear to recognize the major purpose for which it was intended. That purpose, of course, is to foster an increased economic base for the first citizens of Canada.

The Minister of State for Small Business (Mr. Bissonnette) is in one respect, at least, more fortunate than his colleague responsible for youth—he has some money in his budget with which he can actually do something. Why does he not stand in this House and tell the people of Canada that he is sorry for dragging his feet all this time and that, after Question Period today, he is really going to get to work?

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[Translation]

## POLITICAL PARTIES

## METHOD OF FINANCING

**Mr. François Gérin (Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead):** Mr. Speaker, I am starting a public debate on the method of financing Canadian political parties, with a view to limiting contributions to political parties to \$5,000 per year, and only by individual voters, which would exclude corporations, associations and unions. I shall have another opportunity to inform the public on the subject at the national convention of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, which will be held next week in Montreal.

I would ask all Members on both sides of the House to examine the information I have prepared and to think about this proposal, so that together we can help put the political process in Canada on a more ethical basis and improve the democratic process.

Not only should political parties make sure that financial contributions do not impose a measure of dependence on the party, there should not be the slightest hint of such dependence.