

*The Budget—Mr. Crofton*

The rest of the IRDA agreement involving joint expenditures of an additional \$275 million to be devoted to tourism, research and development, agriculture, and the economic development funds provided for in this Budget are all positive steps toward economic renewal and new jobs in British Columbia and in my riding. These are all positive steps, all part of the new and enlightened administration of this country. This Budget is an important milestone in this process of renewal and regeneration.

In summary, my constituents in Esquimalt-Saanich support the initiatives taken in this Budget. They consider it to be fair and even handed. They are fully aware that our financial affairs will not be put straight overnight. They expect us to develop a lean, efficient and accountable administration, one that is frugal with their tax dollars, and one that returns control and decision making to the people of this country. They are fully aware that the initiatives in this Budget, although significant and important, are but one milepost in the long and difficult road back to prosperity in our country. My constituents support this Budget, I support this Budget, and I am very pleased to have this opportunity today to say so.

**Mr. Skelly:** Mr. Speaker, first let me congratulate the Hon. Member on his maiden speech. He indicated that people like this Budget. I would like to raise some concerns expressed by an important group of people who do not like the Budget; that is, members of the Canadian Armed Forces who are penalized by the Budget and the Conservative Government.

New provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act have placed retiring members of the Armed Forces at a serious disadvantage when they retire. Many former members of the Armed Forces have retired after long years of service to Canada with low pensions because in former times incomes were very low. They have now lost the benefit of full indexation. Servicemen who live in permanent married quarters on Canadian Forces bases, particularly CFB Comox, are facing dramatic increases in rent, some in the order of \$100 to \$150 a month. I would like to point out to the Conservative Government and the Hon. Member who just spoke that this Budget is unfair and unacceptable to members of the Canadian Armed Forces. It imposes harsh treatment on them, and I think these matters should be raised and responded to by the Government.

**Mr. Crofton:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the observations of the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly). I am not entirely sure exactly which members of the Armed Forces he is speaking about because the ones I have spoken to support this Budget. There is indeed a problem with housing for servicemen living on base. The Hon. Member might not know it, but this is one of the questions I raised just recently in the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence. I did so because clearly action is required in this regard.

As to the matter of de-indexation, I think it best to repeat the comments made by the Minister of Finance earlier today. Finances which are out of control, rising costs, interest rates and inflation, affect all Canadians. Any thinking Canadian

will appreciate that any government which does not take action to get our finances under control does a gross disservice to the people of this country. That is precisely what we are attempting to do, to get our finances under control, and that is what we were elected to do.

**Mr. Skelly:** Mr. Speaker, there is of course another group of people who live in the Hon. Member's riding who are concerned about this Budget. If you include the cuts announced in the November Economic Statement along with those announced in this Budget from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, that Department is not going to be able to enforce habitat protection and fisheries management. They are not going to be able to provide a \$200 million salmon enhancement program or the \$100 million buy-back program. Many people are dissatisfied with this Budget, and I think it would pay the Hon. Member to take a very close look at people in his riding who are not satisfied.

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## THE ROYAL ASSENT

[English]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Deputy to the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

● (1710)

And being returned:

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I have the honour to inform the House that when the House went up to the Senate Chamber the Deputy Governor General was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following Bill:

Bill C-52, an Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971—Chapter No. 18.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### THE BUDGET

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government; and the amendment of Mr. Johnston (p. 5043).