

The Budget

out, is not a cost but an investment. Let me go on to other aspects of this.

The women's program has been cut. There will be women's groups who will not be able to survive. We have already seen a number of women's organizations that have shut down in Canada because of the cut to the funds of the Secretary of State.

Let me point out the double difficulty that women find themselves in. Seventy per cent of all part-time students in this country are women. If we relate that to the point that I was making about the cuts in post-secondary education, we will see that women now are not doubly disadvantaged but triply disadvantaged by the effects of this budget.

One of the most fundamental ways in which women achieve equality is through education. There is a direct correlation between the amount of education you have and the amount of money you make in this country. If women are ever going to be able to become equal and independent, they have to have access to education. What this budget does is to say: "Shut down your offices. Shut down your affirmative action, but also you are denied further access to post-secondary education." I think that that is the real sin of this particular budget.

Let me get onto a third group that is less powerful and less rich in this country, and that is the native people. I heard the questions yesterday in the House of Commons and I heard the minister talk about increases to DIAND. Sure, there are increases to DIAND for land claims. However, the question that was not answered by the Secretary of State is why he sat at the table and allowed his native programs to be cut. Twenty-three million dollars was cut out of the program of the Secretary of State, \$19 million of which was for native people.

There was a newspaper in Main, Labrador in English and Inuktitut that goes all along the northern coast and provides a voice, a meeting place and an educational tool, an expression for native people in northern Labrador. It has been completely wiped out, completely shut down, and the staff have been laid off. Your voice is muted. Your voice is cut off. Your voice is expendable because it is less powerful. The radio station in Main, Labrador in both languages of English and Inuktitut, again provided a voice for the voiceless, some political power, some expression.

What people in the south do not understand is that we are inundated with Vanna White, with American sitcoms. It is bad enough for people who live in the south, the amount of choice they have, given the CBC, but when you live in the north it is doubly difficult to survive as a culture and as a people with the sea of programming that comes from the south. Those native newspapers and radio stations gave people in the north a way to talk back.

There were a lot of other things that happened, not just in this budget but outside this budget. Let me just tell you about one more thing, Mr. Speaker. The Post Office has said to people in the north: "You can no longer ship food through the mail." My colleague, the member for eastern Arctic raised that matter a while ago. You can ship Ski-doo parts through the mail. If your Ski-doo breaks down you can ship a fan belt or a part of your engine through the mail. You can ship any of that through the mail. But you cannot ship milk. If your baby is sick, you cannot ship milk through the mail. That is what this government has done to people in the north.

It is a vicious circle for us. We are being punished because of the hot economy of Ontario, yet more and more of our people are moving to Ontario every day. We do not want that. We want to have a way to survive in our own area as contributing Canadians and not receiving Canadians.

This budget does not help people who are weak and powerless in Canada. This budget drives a larger wedge into the ever-widening gap between the two Canadas, the rich Canada and the poor Canada, the powerful Canada and the powerless Canada, the have Canada and the have-not Canada. This government has got to be called to account for that.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member will have five minutes for questions and comments after three o'clock today, if he wishes.

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

At 1.02 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.