

The Budget

I know that the member comes from the western province of British Columbia which is a terrific province. In that province there is a New Democratic government.

My question is: Will he go back to that province and speak to his colleagues in the other provinces where they have elected New Democratic governments so that they will stand up to this Prime Minister? Or is he just going to pay lip service like Bob Rae is doing in Ontario? Are they going to do the same thing, a ballooning of the deficit? Are their programs once again going to balloon the deficit.

Clearly the \$14 billion that we have in Ontario does not wash. Is the NDP paying lip service, or does it really care about the Canadian people?

• (1330)

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, it is interesting how the Liberals want to continue to play politics with these important issues and ignore the facts.

First of all, the economic problems in Ontario were visited upon that government by the programs put in place by the previous Liberal government and by the level of transfers from this federal government to all provincial governments, particularly Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

The Rae government in Ontario is making a major effort to ensure that the problems of dislocation are not borne simply by the least fortunate in our society, but are borne fairly by all in the community of Ontario.

The member refers to the previous policies of this government. Let me take the opportunity, in the minute or two I have left, to just put on record another area in which this budget is deficient.

That is in the area of defence, of which I am the spokesperson for our party. The defence budget now is 40 per cent higher in real terms than it was in the early 1980s. This budget, contrary to the impression the government intended to create, actually increases defence spending in the coming year by \$150 million and a further \$400 million in 1993-94.

The government is taking the correct step in withdrawing our forces from Europe as a result of the changes of the cold war, but it is taking most of that money and

applying it to the defence budget without a serious review of roles for our defence forces in North America.

There is nothing mentioned here about NORAD and the \$500 million we spend there. In fact, the budget actually provides for \$140 million in modernization of NORAD despite the end of the cold war.

There is no review of our coastal patrol functions and how they should be changed. There is no review of our capital spending.

There is nothing concrete done about closing bases across Canada, where the government privately concedes hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars are being wasted in keeping bases open that have outlived their usefulness.

Those bases should be closed in full consultation with the communities involved and there should be support for the individuals and families who have to undergo transition. But the fact remains that the government has ducked its responsibilities in this area at huge costs to the Canadian taxpayer.

The government does not even make a commitment to sell the lands in Downsview, in the heart of Toronto, which have no more military function that is needed and can be used for social housing and for other needed community facilities.

So the government has neglected its responsibilities in the defence area. It is not taking a tough position in view of the end of the cold war.

The time has come for a peace dividend for this country. It is a shame the government did not proceed with it.

[*Translation*]

M. Yvon Côté (Richmond—Wolfe): Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take part in this debate on the budget the hon. Minister of Finance has just tabled. Even more so since this budget reflects the good advice the minister has received not only from his colleagues and fellow members of this House but also from people throughout Canada. Is there one member, who has not heard our fellow citizens express their opinion, their concern and even their anger at times about the way the Federal government manages its finances? The minister has attempted to gather all these comments, suggestions