

now thankfully in place for Atlantic Canada. What will it mean to Nova Scotia?

Mr. Casey: Mr. Speaker, my riding of Cumberland—Colchester is not the richest riding in the country. I believe that the Free Trade Agreement will allow us to become an equal in Canada. It will allow us to expand our industry. In fact, it has already done so.

In my riding there are factories that build car parts and ship them to the United States. Those factories are doubling capacity at the present time. There is also a factory that builds wood splitters and ships them to the United States. Another factory builds stoves and ships them to the United States. Other factories build ornaments in pewter, and the list goes on. Those factories will increase their production.

In Amherst, where I live, there was a company owner who was very much afraid that he would be wiped out by free trade. He was extremely concerned about it. The other day I spoke to him and he told me that he has more people working than he has ever had. He does not understand what is going on. He is very excited and sees a bright horizon. Free trade will be his salvation, and I also believe that.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): There is time for one more question or comment. The Hon. Member for Halifax.

Ms. Clancy: Mr. Speaker, as a fellow Nova Scotian, I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Cumberland—Colchester (Mr. Casey) how he can countenance the breach of privilege against his constituents which was constituted by the leak in the Budget. They, like all Canadians, had a right to have the Budget unveiled in the House of Commons and not on national television.

Is the Hon. Member not dismayed that he sits on the side of the House that allowed the most massive breach since the first Parliament sat 724 years ago?

Mr. Casey: I have no hesitation in talking about that issue. There was no negligence on the part of the Government. It was a deliberate attempt by someone, and it was not easy for that person. He or she attempted to sell the information to the media, and that did not work. He or she attempted to give it to the media on the radio, and that did not work. Finally, the person had to deliver the information. For whatever reason, it was a deliberate attempt. I do not know if it was sabotage or sour grapes. The fact of the matter is—and it is common

sense—that no harm was done, that no damage was done, and that is what the Canadian people see.

When some Members in the House were attempting to turn it into a gigantic disaster, the Canadian people applied common sense and stated that it was not a disaster. It is too bad that it happened, and it should not have happened, but there was no harm done. Why throw the country into total chaos. Can one imagine the chaos in the economy if the Minister of Finance had to resign and the Budget had not gone ahead? It would have been chaos.

The Minister of Finance is a pillar of strength in the reputation of Canada in the world. If he were to be removed there would be terrific damage to our reputation, and it would take a long time to recover from that. I have no problem with it at all.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments are now terminated. On debate, the Hon. Member for Halifax.

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I wish to commence by doing something that I should have done when I rose during the question and comment period, that is, congratulate my fellow colleague, the Hon. Member for Cumberland—Colchester (Mr. Casey), on his maiden speech, and well done it was.

It is a very great pleasure for me to rise in the House today as a Member for one of the most historic ridings in the entire country. Halifax is one of Canada's oldest cities, and this year it celebrates the one hundred and fortieth anniversary of its founding. We have the largest city in the Atlantic region. Halifax is a naval base, a major commercial port, and a government centre. It is also the base for five universities with a sixth on its outskirts. Halifax is home to students, to senior citizens, to young families, and to service personnel. Although it is not immediately recognizable, as opposed to some of the larger centres in the country, within our city we boast various small cultural communities that reflect the new cultural reality that is Canada.

As Atlantic Canadians, Haligonians have known for many years that they live in what is unhappily known as a have not region. This is a bitter situation for a proud people who remember the glory days of wooden ships and, if one will pardon the paraphrasing, iron persons. However, bad as this situation has been, it became infinitely worse on the black night of Wednesday, April 26. Haligonians, innocently watching a hockey game, received a great shock that night. The Budget, the blueprint for the fiscal short-term future of our country, attacked them with a vengeance. The Government,