

*The Budget*

we have set up over the years, this can only be done with a budget like this one, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Duhamel:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my Hon. colleague's comments. I should like, however, to develop further the notion of a "vision of the future" which he raised.

Quite recently, a friend of mine mentioned that the budget of an individual, an organization, a government or a private enterprise greatly reflects the priorities of this individual or group. In a sense, it is an image of his or its soul, because the way I spend my money is indicative of the values I hold dear.

Now, when I consider this budget, I note that the Government increased by as much as 5 per cent the funding of a number of departments, including National Defence. I think it increased the funding for Intelligent Service by as much as 20 per cent. Other fundings were either limited or frozen. For instance, this budget comes down very hard on the old, the sick, the veterans, the young, the natives, Canadian women, and a number of regions: their funding were either frozen or allowed a limited increase. I am referring of course to the health care and education programs.

Moreover, taxes will increase, and I just wonder how the Minister can claim with such fanfare that there will be no new tax, when the Government has announced that the GST will be implemented in January 1991, unless of course it plans to withdraw it, which would be very good news for Canadian men and women.

My question to the Minister is this: If you followed my argument don't you think that serious self-examination is in order for the Government when it claims that its priorities are really what Canadian men and women need?

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has just given us an example of a syndrome that is also found among some members of the Canadian public, and I am referring to the "not-in-my-backyard" syndrome. It is true that a budget must reflect priorities. Our priorities are reflected in the fact that we are capping spending increases in areas that are not particularly sensitive or vitally important, and we have protected all components of our social programs from these cutbacks. I would say

the hon. member is again showing the kind of attitude I fail to understand. He says that the CSIS budget, and in fact I was responsible for CSIS until last week, was increased by 20 per cent. What the hon. member tends to forget is that the Department of Employment and Immigration is being criticized for not being quick enough in processing refugee cases. To process these cases, however we have to hire people to process security files—

**Mr. Duhamel:** Twenty per cent more?

• (1550)

**Mr. Blais:** Yes. We have to hire people for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, we have to hire people to deal with this backlog of 100,000. Nearly half of question period was on this issue alone. At the same time, people object and question why the increase in the budget of the Department of National Defence is limited, but when we cut 14 military bases across the country, they are the first to come and ask the government not to cut military bases in Canada, not to cut this item or that. It is always the same story. We all want cuts but not in areas where we are affected, never in our priority areas. That is why the government, Mr. Speaker, has shouldered its responsibilities and faced this reaction which is to some extent legitimate from people who say, "Well, I don't want you to cut in my area." We have to make drastic decisions, cut everywhere, as is normal, exempting some areas such as social spending and spending in the most disadvantaged provinces.

I think that answer is quite appropriate and reflects the government's priorities, Mr. Speaker, because a budget, as you said, reflects a government's priorities. You will find them there, because we are not imposing any new taxes. The GST which was announced previously will be fairer for Canadians, which you refuse to admit. You simply say that this tax is not right for Canadians. But you forget to say how it could be replaced. You forget to talk about the present tax which is applied to manufactured products—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but the period for questions and comments has now expired. Debate. The hon. member for Regina—Lumsden.