

The Budget

could sustain. That is what they left us. That is the legacy of the Liberal party.

The members to my right do not want to listen to that. That is the absolute fact. They left us with a debt that was crippling. They do not want to address it.

What do they want to do? They want to turn back the clock to the same kinds of policies they used in the 1960s and 1970s. Those were the kinds of policies that put us in the position we are in today. We are going to make the tough decisions that have to be made to bring this country into line.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The period for questions and comments has now terminated. Resuming debate with the hon. member for Nipissing.

Mr. Bob Wood (Nipissing): Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to participate in this debate, briefly, for two minutes.

On February 20, I listened attentively to the Minister of Finance as he presented his sixth budget. I must say that I was disappointed with the latest episode of "as the debt turns". My first impulse was to move a motion to protect an endangered species, namely, middle income Canadians. It is an endangered species because this government seems to get a kick out of seeing how many Canadians it can put below the poverty line.

What is the plan the minister speaks of when he says that since 1984 this government has been following a consistent and comprehensive plan? We would like to know what the plan is.

This government has subjected Canadians to 32 separate tax increases since 1984. Personal income taxes have increased from \$29 billion to \$56 billion since 1984. The national debt has more than doubled from \$170 billion to \$350 billion since 1984. The manufacturers' sales tax, the so-called silent killer of jobs, has been increased four times from 9 per cent to 13.5 per cent since 1984.

Corporate taxes have decreased from 13.2 per cent to 10.4 per cent, as a proportion of a total tax revenue, despite the fact that we have experienced five consecutive years of economic growth.

Also, in northern Ontario this measure will widen the regional disparity in this country because of the cut-backs in the regional development programs. This is going to have a tremendous effect on northern Ontario, especially at a time when these regions need them most. As mines close in northern Ontario and fisheries shut down on the east coast and the prairie farmers suffer,

this is not the time to be cutting back on the programs of regional development.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I am sorry. I must interrupt the hon. member.

[*Translation*]

It being 5.45 p.m., it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 84(6), to interrupt the proceedings and put forth with every question necessary to dispose of the main motion now before the House.

[*English*]

The question is on the motion of the Minister of Finance. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): All those in favour of the motion will please say ye.

Some hon. members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five members having risen.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Call in the members.

The House divided on the motion, which was agreed to on the following division:

(*Division No. 197*)

YEAS

Members

Anderson
Atkinson
Beatty
Bernier
Bird
Blackburn (Jonquière)
Blenkarn
Cadieux
Casey
Champagne (Champlain)
Cole
Cook
Corbett
Couture
Danis
DeBlois

Andre
Attewell
Belsher
Bertrand
Bjornson
Blais
Brightwell
Campbell (Vancouver Centre)
Chadwick
Clark (Yellowhead)
Collins
Cooper
Côté
Crosby (Halifax West)
Darling
de Cotret