

The Budget

bottomless, endless pitcher of money flowing, and where everybody can live a Utopian dream.

He speaks about international affairs and how we can use taxpayers' dollars to manipulate things to our advantage and so on. Where does the hon. member think those dollars really come from if they do not come from the very taxpayers he is talking about supporting? Where does he think those dollars come from if they do not come from the business community that he is suggesting somehow we should support through some grant program? Where does he think the dollars come from to support the social programs of which the member is such a proponent?

I would like the member to tell this House how much he thinks he can stretch a single dollar. There is only \$1 in this country, Madam Speaker. That is the dollar that comes out of your pocket, my pocket, the hon. member's pocket, and the pockets of all individuals out there. How does the hon. member think that that dollar can be stretched beyond its capacity right now, when 35 cents out of that dollar which they pay to this government go to service a debt that was created over a period of profligate spending where people—and the hon. member was one of those people—lived in this Utopian dream where they thought that there was never, ever going to be a time when we had to pay the piper.

• (1540)

I would like the hon. member to tell us how he thinks a dollar can be more than a dollar, and how he thinks the taxpayers can dig down deeper and afford to pay more than they already are for the debt that was created by the hon. member's government?

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Madam Speaker, let me make it clear to the hon. member for Winnipeg South that I do not see a Utopian world in Canada. I do not see a Utopian world when I see a million kids living in poverty. I do not see a Utopian world when young native kids are committing suicide. They have the highest rate of suicide of any group in the world. That is not Utopia, I say to the member from Winnipeg South; that is a tragedy. It is a dark scar on the face of this country. There is nothing Utopian about watching the children of this country go down the tube. There is nothing Utopian watching the children of this country going hungry, going without education, and going without proper housing.

I will tell the member where the money comes from. There are 116,000 corporations in this country that did not pay any taxes last year. I will tell her something else. Of the new investments in this country 96 per cent went for corporate takeovers and acquisitions; not new investment, not new business, but to play the paper economy game, to move the chairs around to help Conrad Black get bigger and bigger, and to strip down the corporations of this country. Some \$3 million an hour leave this country to pay off our foreign debts. That is where the money is going.

How much money is lost because of our capital gains exemption? How much money is lost because we do not have a proper tax on succession of wealth in this country?

There are lots of places where dollars could be found, but the problem is that this government does not want to look for them because when they start looking for them that is where they will find their friends.

Mr. René Soetens (Ontario): Madam Speaker, I am almost tempted to carry on from the last presentation because the member certainly provided lots of opportunities for me to comment. However I am really here to participate in this budget debate and in the debate on the amendments that the two opposition parties have put forward.

Yesterday morning in my constituency I had the opportunity of having a budget breakfast to which members of the business community, citizens of the community, and students were invited. Some 280 people participated. There was not one person who stood in objection to the budget program. Sure, there were questions. There were some serious questions about some of the programs, but in the end not one constituent stood in opposition at this particular meeting. I did not choose who the constituents were. Those who wanted to come simply came.

We come back to this particular budget and I say maybe my constituents are really quite concerned about it. About 45 minutes ago I made a point of checking with my office staff in the constituency and here in Ottawa to see how many calls have received from constituents concerned that some of the budget programs were impacting on them negatively. We received not one call, I should point out.