

some of the long-standing recommendations from the development community which calls for aid to be on time. In other words, when we undertake an aid program in a given country, the resources should respond to the priorities of the country rather than to our own priorities in terms of our economic development or in terms of the types of goods our companies sell. It has been well documented that giving aid to another country while tying it to that country's purchasing goods from Canada can distort the aid. Thus we end up not helping the country. While on paper we are claiming to help, in reality we are not helping at all. In fact, we are wasting our own money. If we want to spend money on development aid then we want it to be spent effectively. We want it to result in development. While the Government could have done something in this area in fact it has done nothing.

The Budget has postponed the whole question of tax reform. There is a growing consensus in the country that the tax system is unjust, that it is too complicated, that there are too many loopholes in it and that we have to find a more fair way to raise the revenue we need in order to deliver the services which the Government has the responsibility to deliver. However, the Government has postponed any efforts at tax reform. Rather than bringing forward something with respect to tax reform in this Budget, which was an opportunity for the Government to take action, it chose to do nothing. It chose to put off the day when we will see tax reform. One can speculate as to why it did that. Perhaps it hopes that it can have a tax reform package prepared for the next election and announce it just before it in an attempt to curry public favour, in an attempt to seek to improve its own political fortunes. If I wanted to be cynical about the whole matter I would say that it would announce such proposals at a time approaching the next election but too late to give Canadians an opportunity to experience the impact of such a measure. In this way the average Canadian would have no real way of evaluating the impacts of such measures and whether they really lived up to the promises made. Instead of acting on tax reform, the Budget has further increased taxes on the average Canadian family by \$65 to \$100 per year.

So taxes have been increased in the Budget, inclusive of taxes on gasoline, airline tickets, cigarettes and snack food. We have all heard of heartless Governments before. However, a Government that increases taxes on children's candy, on granola bars and chocolate bars, is truly heartless. I must say that I try to discourage my children from eating chocolate bars because I know that they are not good for their teeth. I know that sugar can decay teeth. However, I am not always successful in this end and, of course, a child can buy a granola bar rather than a chocolate bar.

Why has the Government chosen to pick on little children while giving tax breaks to wealthy Canadians? It has chosen to impose taxes on snack foods, thus taking candy out of the mouths of babes. That is heartless. While it imposes taxes on children's candy it does nothing in terms of child care. The

Government postponed action on child care. This is a key area in which there is a growing consensus with respect to the need for action. It is one of the most important areas of public policy in which Governments will be constantly pressured for action until we arrive at a point at which there is adequate child care. Because of demographic changes and because of changes in work habits we need day care in a way that we have yet to face up to. The Government has chosen to tax children's candy and do nothing about child care—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Keeper: I hear laughter from members of the Government. I understand that they do not like having the shortcomings of this Budget pointed out. I am sure their laughter is a result of their embarrassment. Perhaps they have failed to read the Budget which was presented to the House.

The Budget is not only unfair to the poor and the children but it is also unfair to the regions of Canada, to the Atlantic region, to British Columbia, parts of the Prairies, and parts of Quebec and Ontario which have unemployment rates of 15 per cent to 20 per cent.

An Hon. Member: Not on the Prairies!

Mr. Keeper: My Conservative colleague says: "Not on the Prairies". I know that in Manitoba we have a very low unemployment rate. In part that is due to the initiatives of the New Democratic Government which is in office in that province. However, it is also important to know that it is time the Government woke up to the fact that Manitoba needs respect as a region, that Manitoba needs industrial economic development. It is not enough for the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to quote our low unemployment rate since it does not reflect the whole of the province. It does not reflect the fact of the need for development in Manitoba. We are still not at an equal level with Toronto, which is the impression the Government seeks to put forward.

What I really wish to say about the Budget is that it is a lost opportunity. It is a do-nothing Budget. It is a Budget that did nothing for the poor, nothing for the hardest hit regions of the country, and nothing for average Canadian families.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, this is an unfair Budget. It is a Budget that does nothing for the average Canadian, for the regions or for the poor. Mr. Speaker, it is time this Government took action and did something for Canadians. It is not enough to increase taxes. Canadians need services such as daycare and regional development programs.

This Budget, however, does nothing for anyone.

• (1610)

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments.