

### *The Budget*

briefed the former government, who briefed Mr. Benoît Bouchard before the OECD conference held on the 8th and 9th of December in Paris, where Mr. Bouchard gave a speech that the Minister of Human Resources Development could not disown, that could even be his.

Does this mean that there is no other way to play politics than the way of Liberals and Conservatives? For the Liberals, the answer is no. Until Canadian federal parties escape from the clutches of the big corporations that finance them and whose interests prevail government after government, Canadians will have a choice between six of one and half a dozen of the other.

Why did the finance minister refuse to go after the real sources of revenue and to ensure that large corporations pay taxes by blocking the royal road to tax shelters. Fortunately, and I was happy to see that our finance critic came to the same conclusion, Quebecers exercised that prerogative thanks to the late René Lévesque. No one is saying that governments are not in a difficult situation, but nothing less than equity between individual and corporate citizens is acceptable.

Without this fairness, citizens are tricked, manoeuvred and manipulated by a clique who are not affected by the many and growing insecurities of ordinary people. They do not even have an idea of what it is like to be afraid of losing a meagre unemployment insurance or welfare cheque. They do not know the humiliation and anguish caused by the raised eyebrows of all the welfare and unemployment insurance officials in the land. They could not live for a single day on what a woman has to raise two children on for a whole month. And now this woman will have to prove that she really is the head of the family and that her personal income is such that she is entitled for a few weeks to 60 per cent of not much, scarcely more than the minimum wage. The minister tells us about the responsible management of social programs.

It is both scandalous and revealing that the Minister of Finance forgot to attack costly duplication, a big source of potential savings, in his speech. It shows that this government lacks the will to deal with this important issue, especially with the Government of Quebec. It also shows this government's desire to centralize and its eagerness to meddle in fields of provincial jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you something, and I thought about it twice. I had heard that the Minister of Human Resources Development was a progressive man whom I could help, in the strange way that the Official Opposition usually does. Now I know that is not at all the case; despite his generous words, he agreed to make the only significant cuts which the Liberal government is making at the expense of the most vulnerable people and their children. The Minister of Finance told us today, "We are advancing social security reform by taking specific

measures affecting unemployment insurance and federal transfers to the provinces for social security".

We say to the Minister of Finance that he has not advanced social security reform. He has shamefully attacked the most disadvantaged. He has refused to attack the main cause of all these problems, employment. He has also refused to attack seriously the most important sources of potential savings: family trusts, defence and duplication. Because we in the Bloc reject this vision, which is the same as the one previous governments had, we want the people of Quebec to have a real plan for the future, which can only come about if Quebec goes it alone as a sovereign state, even though that will not be easy.

• (1800)

[English]

**Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Human Resources Development):** Mr. Speaker, I was paying attention to the hon. member's speech and I was quite puzzled by some of the statements she made, particularly in relation to unemployment insurance premiums.

I recall a few weeks back when the hon. member was complaining that perhaps the premiums were too high at \$3.07. Now we have reduced them so that we can give the type of relief to small business to go ahead and create over 40,000 jobs.

I will tell the hon. member that one thing she will learn very quickly in this House is that inconsistencies are quite dangerous, when we promote certain ideas in the House of Commons, particularly as a member of the opposition.

I am also quite puzzled by the fact that the hon. member would say that this government is not addressing the concerns of young people. Perhaps the hon. member should be reminded of the establishment of the Canadian youth corps and the national apprenticeship training program that this government introduced. It was part of our red book initiatives.

It is fundamental for the hon. member to understand that the issues we have raised in the budget are quite consistent with the commitments made in the red book. I will tell the hon. member why that is important. In case she has forgotten, that red book was what gave us one of the strongest—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. There are three people who wish to make a comment or ask questions. I do not think the purpose of this is to have a speech from the hon. parliamentary secretary. Would he make a brief comment or ask a question so that other members may participate in this part of the debate.

**Mr. Bevilacqua:** Mr. Speaker, you may have been aware that there were three people who wanted to participate. I thought I was the only one who had the floor at this time and that is why I raised those issues.