

genuinely listened to western Canada. In a federal state such as Canada, there is a partnership between the federal authority and the various provinces. Practically all of our national programs are funded and administered jointly. To presume to govern nationally, to presume to be acting on behalf of all Canadians, without consulting promptly, thoroughly and reasonably with each and every provincial jurisdiction, is to perpetrate a fraud, a hoax on the people of Canada. That is exactly what our Liberal predecessors did. They perpetrated a fraud and a hoax. They did not consult, did not account and they did not care. It was a splendid example of "fooling enough of the people most of the time". In 1984, Canadians said, "Enough".

The people of Esquimalt-Saanich are very much in favour of the consultative process. They are fed up with the bickering between jurisdictions. They want effective, efficient administration from Ottawa. I don't know how Ottawa is viewed from Cape Breton or Saskatoon, but I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, Ottawa has been known in British Columbia these recent years as "fat city". Fat city, Mr. Speaker, is that shameless place which is untouched by the recession and populated by legions of faceless bureaucrats and eastern politicians. It is inured from the vicissitudes of inflation and high unemployment, with fat salaries, fully indexed pensions and other assorted perks and benefits.

No one in the former Government cared what westerners thought. Let us take the Liberal national energy policy. That alone tells the story of the Liberal attitude toward western Canada; repressive, vindictive, disinterested and disdainful. Western Canadians have long wanted to be consulted, to be treated fairly and honestly. They have been consulted these recent months. They agree with the policy thrusts of this Budget.

This past weekend I met with hundreds of my constituents in a public forum. They agree that the deficit must be controlled and reduced. They acknowledge that the private sector, most especially small business, is the vehicle for economic growth and job creation. The tax incentives and the changes to the capital gains legislation are important ingredients in the policy to help small business.

The pioneer spirit is alive and well in British Columbia. It is a frontier land of rugged beauty and rugged individualism. The entrepreneurs, the risk takers, are more than willing to take up the challenge of business development, business growth and to be the engine of economic renewal. They have been waiting for a Government which is prepared to reward the successful and the risk taker, a Government which does not dictate everything from the bowels of "fat city" but consults and puts faith in the individual Canadian. That states plainly that the Government wants to unleash the little bit of genius which lurks in every Canadian, whether it be a labourer, union member, farmer, scientist or artist. We have said in the Budget, "You, the average Canadian, choose which artist deserves support, which business has a saleable and worthy product and which initiative deserves public support". That is what my constituents tell me, that is what this Budget tells my

constituents and all Canadians, and that is how we intend to proceed.

We intend to manage our nation's affairs prudently and efficiently. We intend to be accountable and to consult. The farmers in my riding are very pleased with the capital gains legislation. The entrepreneur and the small businessman are very pleased with the tax breaks offered in this Budget. Those involved in research and development are delighted with the revised rules. The many retired people who have worked long and hard to build this country, the men and women from right across Canada who suffered through war and depression and who have retired on temperate Vancouver Island, viewed with particular alarm and concern the profligate and irresponsible financial management of this country over the past two decades. They applaud this Budget because that for which they had worked so long and so hard, and for which they had risked so much, was being eroded, thrown away, before their eyes.

None of us is happy with the need to touch modestly the old age pension indexing, but senior Canadians recognize, as do all other thinking Canadians, that full indexing itself is inflationary. Our retired citizens are prepared to make any modest and reasonable sacrifice, providing all Canada joins in the battle to straighten out our financial affairs. The senior citizens in my riding are well aware that our social programs, in order to be sustained, and to be improved and strengthened, require a vibrant economy in which Canadians have jobs and our finances are properly managed. We have extended benefits to widows and widowers between the ages of 60 years and 64 years. We have increased veterans pensions. We have broadened the scope of eligibility for disability pensions, which will benefit an estimated 120,000 additional Canadians. We do indeed take our social responsibilities seriously.

● (1700)

The Western Accord on energy is a great boon to British Columbia, indeed to all of Canada. In the fishing treaty with the United States, we have at long last started on the road to re-establishing our valuable salmon resource in British Columbia. I had the privilege of attending in Vancouver on Saturday the signing ceremony for the IRDA sub-agreement on forestry involving \$300 million. There has never been a larger forestry agreement signed in Canada. This means thousands of jobs in B.C. in the immediate future. This agreement is six times larger than any previous federal forestry agreement with British Columbia.

In this debate on Monday, the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) stood up and said we had done absolutely nothing for forestry. I suggest that shows she and her Party are completely out of touch with what is going on in B.C. The right hon. gentleman who spoke ahead of me, representing the Liberal Party, said we were doing nothing for forestry. This agreement was signed in a city in a riding which he purports to represent. I suggest he does not know what is going on in B.C. either.