

The Budget

cruel expression of our gratitude to veterans for their service to their country.

We have to contrast the \$17 million that this move will save Canadians with the \$14 million that this government will spend to sell a tax with a propaganda program, the goods and services tax, that we already know 80 per cent of Canadians do not want and do not want to hear about from this government.

We have been proud over the years that we are a country that values equality in justice. But this government is even going to put the cap on that, making sure that some \$86 million will be cut from legal aid, those very services that ensure that Canadians have access to having their rights addressed. Again, low income Canadians will suffer the most because often it is they who rely on legal aid.

We have had a very important inquiry in this country on native justice. This is going to seriously affect the rights of native people to access to justice in our society. So on the one hand while we are giving platitudes about how we believe in native justice and how we believe that every Canadian should have a right to fair and equal justice in this country, on the other hand we are cutting the ways for them to have those rights and this will not be tolerated.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, the government has also imposed cuts on Telefilm Canada and the CBC. The CBC is one of our major national institutions, and both the French and English networks contribute to national unity by strengthening ties between Canadians. If the Conservatives want this Crown corporation to close down, they are on the right track.

A number of questions come to mind, Mr. Speaker. When will the government stop undermining our sovereignty? When will it stop destroying our cultural institutions? And when will it stop attacking the poor and the most vulnerable in this country?

[*English*]

This government has shown once again by this budget that it has not moved at all into the 1990s, that it has not in any way attempted to address the situation that is happening internationally by making any plans to bring our troops home from Europe. Their cold war mindset has once again prevented them from a forward initiative.

Instead, this government has axed the Polar 8 ice-breaker, which is so crucial to protecting the sovereignty of the North. The question that arises is when is this government going to stop selling our sovereignty? When is it going to stop destroying our cultural institutions? When is it going to stop punishing the disadvantaged in this country?

Just as important as what is in the budget is what is not. There is nothing in this budget for women. There is nothing for shelters for battered women. No real commitment to pay equity in the Public Service and the private sector. No program to educate police and judges on women's issues. No relief for older women living in poverty. None of it is there.

There is not one word about child care. Talk about a broken promise, Mr. Speaker. While one million Canadian children require child care, and are not able to get it, this government is silent. Women are never going to be able to attain equality until Canadians have access to affordable quality child care, and the lack of that kind of care, sadly, seems to suit this government just fine.

The minister responsible for the Status of Women should take a good look at her record. It is a miserable record. The move toward equality has been stopped and reversed and the only new initiative that there has been is the recriminalization of abortion. What this government is saying is that we will not make the effort to treat women with dignity, but we can find the time to treat them like criminals.

• (1720)

Another item in this budget which is extremely disappointing is the fact that the regions of this country have been totally ignored. Despite the debates we have had in this House about the crisis in the Atlantic region, despite the serious situation of farmers, we see nothing in this budget to help farmers, the Atlantic region and other regions in this country. This budget comes back empty-handed. There is not one new dollar in regional development money. This government has done a masterful job in creating a crisis in Atlantic Canada and doing nothing to resolve it. There is no emergency relief package for the Atlantic and nothing for workers in the fisheries.

[*Translation*]

The province of Quebec alone will lose \$220 million in transfer payments during 1990-91. In addition to cut-backs in health care and education, Quebec will be affected by cuts in subsidized housing, in funding for the