

[English]

Canada has the natural resources, the capital and the people with the ingenuity to prosper in a competitive world. The very fact of Canada's existence is a tribute to its adaptability. Our ancestors built this country against formidable odds. Canadians have stuck together through testing periods by reaffirming, time and again, their ability to build on the rich diversity of the nation with realism, determination, foresight and understanding. That was the spirit of Confederation; and it must be the spirit in which we face every challenge to the building of a better future for Canada and Canadians.

Our ability to keep our economic future in our own hands is being challenged by the closely linked problems of inflation and growing debt. The economic plan that I have described, and the firm actions we have taken as part of that plan, have brought us to a clear prospect of relief. But let it not be said that we lost the battle by abandoning it before it was won.

Indeed, if we maintain our resolve, the prospect of lower inflation is within sight and we will have the deficit under firm control. By persevering, we will attain greater control over our destiny, and greater ability to devote our resources to investments in a rising standard of living and a better quality of life for all Canadians: in research and development, education and skills training, and environmental, social and cultural programs.

We must not fail in our resolve. We must continue to face our problems squarely. We must grasp the opportunities that are at hand to build the Canada that we want for ourselves and for future generations.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

• (1720)

Mr. Douglas Young (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, I listened with a great deal of interest to the speech made by my colleague, the Minister of Finance. I will not take much of the House's time today, but I feel obliged to respond very briefly.

The hon. Minister of Finance stated in his speech today that there are powerful reasons for holding to the plan that the government started in 1984. I believe that if ever there was a time for us to be conscious of the need

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to try to thwart the devastation that has been levelled on this country since 1984 it is after this speech.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, one of the most dangerous things in society is the big lie. We are going to read the numbers as time goes on. Always, always in a democracy you have to be careful of the big lie. Today, and I want to quote from the document—

Mr. Masse: Sit down!

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, I see the hon. member responsible for Academy Awards is speaking out today, one who spent a lot of money that is being wasted and trying to be recouped by this budget.

The big lie is that there will be no new taxes in this budget. That is the lie that must be debunked—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): What a cheap trick—a cheap trick from a cheap man.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is getting very close to making it personal. I would ask him to keep in mind the rules. There is lots of room for disagreement without using words that are pejorative.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, the fact that Canadians have been told that there will be no new taxes is absolutely false because this budget will result in new taxes in British Columbia, in Alberta, in Saskatchewan, in Manitoba, in Ontario, in Quebec, in New Brunswick, in Nova Scotia, in P.E.I. and in Newfoundland.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Young (Gloucester): What this budget does to Canada is to say that debt is not debt unless it is owed by the Government of Canada. Debt is debt is debt is debt, whether it is provincial debt, municipal debt or federal debt. We will have a great deal to say about shifting the burden of debt in this country from one level of government to the other.