

environment live as well as possible around us, that concerns the Department of the Environment. We can change our surroundings for our betterment, only if we accept and understand that we are dealing with an ecosystem of which we are a part. Our environment measures our actions carefully and responds accordingly. We will continue to be graciously accommodated by our surroundings only if we reciprocate. Knowing how to do this—divining a sort of environmental protocol—is the goal of my department.

Mr. Parker: Mr. Speaker—

[*Translation*]

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Having tested my patience to the limit, I should like to request the unanimous consent of the House to participate as well in the budget debate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have already recognized the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Parker). The decision is no longer in the hands of the House; it depends entirely on the hon. member for Eglinton. If he wishes to yield, he may do so, but as far as I am concerned, I have already recognized the hon. member for Eglinton.

[*English*]

Mr. Rob Parker (Eglinton): I will try to leave a minute or two for the hon. member, Mr. Speaker. That is about all that it will take to demolish this budget.

In rising to speak on the budget, it occurs to me that there are a great many similarities between this document and the cabinet shuffle that we had this morning. Both contained some minor measures, in one case, the movement of some minor people; in both cases, striking up the bland. There is nothing important in either document. I will give the government some credit though because there are some examples of Conservative policy in the budget. There is a sales tax cut, an income tax reduction, improved procedures for research and development, and all of these are Conservative policy.

This morning when the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) shuffled his cabinet, he eliminated the Department of Urban Affairs, and that too is Conservative policy. In fact, when you see all these things happening, Mr. Speaker, when you listen to that kind of hooraw—coming from the other side—it is a wonderful example of the awful things that can happen when cousins marry.

If you examine what the government has done, you might be led to conclude that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) or even the Prime Minister are trying for a seat on the benches over here. I have talked to my leader, and I know there is a seat waiting for them in the row immediately behind me.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I hope that hon. members will understand that the hon. member has only five minutes, and

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that it is his maiden intervention. I think hon. members should be fair to him.

Mr. Parker: There is a difference between a non virgin and a prostitute, and undoubtedly the minister understands very well.

In the couple of minutes that remain, I would like to point out some of the ways in which the government has distorted figures used in the budget and in some of its accompanying documents. We are used to the idea that the government distorts figures to try to justify its miserable record of accomplishment. We have the CPI-2, which now leaves out the prices of food. The Prime Minister, in his speech to the Economic Club in New York said that, food excluded, the inflation rate is coming down. Presumably that means we will be all right if we do not eat.

In this budget the Minister of Finance noted that the indexing figure would be 9 per cent and indicated that for a family of four, that would increase the personal exemptions by \$490. What he did not refer to was the fact that indexing has been part of the Income Tax Act for some time, and if he had not put it in at 9 per cent now, it would have been indexed by 8.6 per cent in any event, and that the net effect of his 9 per cent indexing is about \$10 increase in exemptions. That is not all a tax saving, it is simply a reduction in taxable income. At an income tax rate of 35 per cent, it means that that individual wage earner would save about \$3.50 which in many cities in Canada is enough to take him to a movie.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being five o'clock p.m. it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forward the question necessary to dispose of the question now before the House.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chrétien moves that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: On division.

[*English*]

Mr. Paproski: On division.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On division.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Carried on division.

Motion agreed to.

[*Translation*]

It being five o'clock, the House stands adjourned until Monday at 2 p.m.

At five o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.