of Mr. Johnston (p. 11006); and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Riis (p. 11009).

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and a pleasure to have the opportunity to say a few words on the Budget of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). I was home on the weekend and I contacted a good many of my constituents from all walks of life, including doctors and businessmen. The general consensus was that, although no one likes to pay taxes or have their taxes increased, it was a pretty good Budget. We had been promised a pretty tough Budget and a good many of my constituents were gratified that it was not even more serious.

Canadians realize, and the people in my riding have been saying the same thing, that we have been trying to spend ourselves into prosperity. That is impossible. Most of us are aware that we have to live within our means, that we cut our coat according to our cloth.

Mr. Attewell: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I hesitate to interrupt my colleague and friend, but the Hon. Member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Parry) spoke for 20 minutes and I would like the opportunity to reply to some of the statements he made.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Speaker has already ruled on this matter and the decision was that if the Member is not present when the House resumes debate, there will be no period for questions and comments.

Mr. Darling: Mr. Speaker, I was speaking about the great amount of money that we owe and the fact that our deficit is such that something has to be done about it. All Canadians realize that we do not want to become another Mexico or Argentina with huge debts and spiralling inflation. If we are going to do something about it, then we have to bite the bullet. The Minister of Finance has gambled that Canadians will accept the tax increases which are aimed largely at the middle-income taxpayer, as part of this great fight against the deficit.

There has been a great deal said about the load being placed on the middle-income earner. According to the NDP the middle-income earners are going to be a thing of the past. I think that with this Government and this Budget the middle-income people might become a thing of the past by moving one step higher into the lower echelons of the higher-income groups. I also think the great majority of people known as the middle-income earners know that they have to dig down in order to pay this deficit off. The previous Government, which was responsible for the huge deficit we have now, did not tax people as much as it should have and everyone, in whatever income bracket, benefited from that.

One of the things I know a good many people are worried about is the fact that our children and grandchildren should not be saddled with a huge debt which will be a millstone around their necks. It is up to us to see that we share in the attempt to cut that huge deficit.

Prior to the Budget, business leaders, economists and a good many of our news columnists were saying that this Budget must be tough. Some of them went so far as to say they wanted the Minister to announce tax measures and spending cuts totalling as much as $10 billion. While many of us feel that this might be a very sound Budget, it would certainly put a tremendous load on the average taxpayer, which we certainly did not want to do.

It is interesting to note that our total deficit is around $225 billion. That figure has been bandied around by many speakers here today and it is probably well within the range. However, *The New York Times*, one of the most prestigious newspapers in the world, as well as one of the most quoted, stated the day after the Budget came down that the Canadian deficit for this year would be $225 billion. I am quite sure that this created some shock waves not only in the U.S. but on money markets and with economists around the world. This probably had a detrimental effect on our dollar. It is the U.S. deficit for this year which is around $224 billion, which is about the same as our total debt.

The Minister of Finance is hoping that through the various tax measures and expenditure cuts we will be able to get the biggest bang for the buck. Rarely does a Government commit itself to such clear-cut and long-range plan for handling the coffers of the nation. The Budgets of May, 1985, and February, 1986, are a testament to the constituency of this Government. We have put our cards on the table for all to see, which is yet another anomaly in Government circles. In tune with our philosophy, from the outset this Budget will help to restore fiscal integrity. It will make Government more effective at less cost and will encourage private initiative.

● (1640)

This administration inherited a hodge-podge of problems from the Liberal Government, the most notable of which was blatant financial mismanagement. The deficit and the national debt are soaking up much needed capital to service interest payments on the debt. As we are all aware, it is understood that one dollar in every three dollars collected in taxes goes to service the national debt. Based on the old accounting system the deficit for this fiscal year will be down over $3 billion from the year before to $33.8 billion. From there this Government sees a deficit of $29.8 billion next year and reducing down to $22 billion in the 1990-91 fiscal year. Putting the brakes on our debt is probably the most positive signal that Canada could send from sea to shining sea.

As the world sees our Government program with expenditures reduced to levels prevalent in the 1960s, as a share of the economy, confidence will increase and investment in Canadian goods will follow. Virtually no Government expenditure has been left unscathed from the Finance Minister's frugal rapier. All federal Departments and all non-statutory programs have been implicated in cost-cutting measures. Members of Parliament and Senators will have a $1,000 slice cut from their salaries. I believe that was probably the most popular item in the Budget. I would also have included a lot of the grand