

**Mrs. Browes:** Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the Hon. Member for his excellent speech in which he outlined some of the positive effects the Budget will have on the Atlantic region, and particularly on the Province of Nova Scotia. The Hon. Member also has experience in defence and indicates that the Budget will have positive effects in this area.

I believe the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) deserves much credit in being able to implement positive measures to produce the necessary prosperity in the Atlantic region while maintaining the justice that is so important for that area.

My constituents are quite weary and some are very angry about the burden which was left as a result of the spending of the previous Government. The national debt left as a result of the previous Government's spending represents an average of \$7,000 over the head of every single Canadian.

Let us consider some of the statistics. Last year's Nobel prize winner for economics, Franco Modigliani, is a noted economist. He said that in reaching levels unprecedented in peacetime, the deficit has become a serious threat to the well-being of younger and future generations of Americans. His comments, of course, were in reference to the United States deficit which, on a per capita basis, is less than our own. So it is time the brakes were applied.

● (1630)

I would just like to refer to a telephone message which came into my constituency office the day after the Budget. My constituent said: "Thank you for bringing down the kind of Budget the Liberals never had the fortitude to introduce". I believe that the kind of positive comments mentioned by the Hon. Member in his speech are a great tribute to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) and to our Government, that we have been able to have those positive elements in the Budget and at the same time reduce the deficit and reduce waste.

We recognize the Hon. Member's long service in the House of Commons and the experience and wisdom he has gathered as a Member of the House of Commons and as a great Canadian. I wonder if he might comment on the relationship of this Budget to other Budgets he has had the experience of debating in this House?

**Mr. Coates:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's remarks and I also appreciate her special work in relation to the former Hon. Member for Prince Albert, the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker. I wish her well in that regard. I am looking forward to the birthday celebration this September.

I would like to say that it has been many years since I can recall a Budget which actually, in a very forthright way, tackled the deficit, and which has given us the long-term projections which, in turn, give us some hope that some day we might be able to balance the Budget in this country again. I was in the House at a time when Ministers of Finance did bring in balanced Budgets, but it was a long time ago.

Today we have a great concern about our dollar as compared with the United States dollar, whether it is at 70 cents, 68 cents or 72 cents. I think it is important to stabilize our

*The Budget—Hon. R. Coates*

dollar somewhere. More importantly, as far as myself and other Hon. Members in this House are concerned, we must stabilize it at a point, even if it is below 70 cents, which will allow interest rates to come down. For instance, a two point reduction in interest rates would mean \$100 a month less for a person carrying a \$70,000 mortgage. That is a big incentive to our Party, and to our Government, to try and get interest rates down at least two points. Let us hope that when the dollar is stabilized—at whatever level it is stabilized—we will be able to move interest rates down in a positive way, which will be of assistance to all people carrying mortgages at the present time.

**Mr. McKenzie:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my hon. friend from Nova Scotia on his excellent presentation. He gave us an update on the economic upswing in Atlantic Canada.

**Mr. Wise:** It came from his head and his heart.

**Mr. McKenzie:** Yes, as the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) just said, it came from the Hon. Member's head and his heart. With respect to the \$300 million being funded for the Atlantic Accord and the \$200 million Canada-Nova Scotia Development Agreement which has been signed and, for initial projects, approved, will this now mean that many young people in Atlantic Canada and in Nova Scotia will now have a future in their own province? I know in the past, because of years of Liberal neglect, many people, especially the youth of Nova Scotia, had to leave their home province to find employment in other parts of Canada. Will the different developments and agreements which have been signed for Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada mean that they will now be able to stay in Atlantic Canada and have some hope for the future?

**Mr. Coates:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for that question. I want to say that the type of programs the Hon. Member has outlined, and the type of new innovative thinking of a new and strong Government with its special attitude towards Atlantic Canada, will ensure the future for that region. The Minister of Agriculture just signed a new agreement with the three provinces on red meat which indicates this new type of aggressiveness. The youth in Atlantic Canada, because of programs such as the Hon. Member pointed out, have a new sense of confidence about their future in our part of Canada. They are thinking about living, getting educated and working there rather than going elsewhere in Canada looking for jobs.

There is tremendous co-operation coming from the provincial Government of Nova Scotia, the Buchanan Government, and it is that kind of co-operation that has produced the type of new plant establishments which are giving new hope to young people, not only in my province but in our region. The Government has to be complimented for its aggressive and innovative approaches to the problems we face.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The period for questions and comments has now terminated. Debate.