

*The Budget*

our health care system. I know that there have been special arrangements made by the Ontario government for people who are having particularly chronic problems to be transferred from the Windsor area into Detroit for health care services because the Ontario government does not have the services available for them.

I know that there are shortages and long lines for hospital beds in many areas of Ontario and those shortages and long lines for beds go across this country. One action by the Minister of Finance, and we end up making longer lines, making greater shortages or asking the provinces to put in millions upon millions more to make up the difference. A neglect of an agreement that was made by the provinces, therefore, is coming directly down on the heads of those who are ill, those families who need very critical health services.

I kind of smiled as well, but it is a serious matter, when we look at the headline in the *The Ottawa Citizen*, "Vets At War With Michael". How on earth can a budget come down on the heads of veterans, hospitalized veterans from the First World War, the Second World War and from times in the past, who served this country offering their lives where need be? Now we are going to tax them in their hospital beds. That is a real travesty of taxation but it shows the low levels at which taxation can arrive at times. It shows that we do not meet the needs of all of those. Certainly I for one feel very badly that the veterans have been even thought of as another area of revenue.

I also have a student who is going to the University of Ottawa. I realize the need for post-secondary education in this country. We have talked about post-secondary education and research and development as the means by which we can get away from being drawers of water, as a means by which we can get away from the lower levels of jobs and raise our people into high-tech and high opportunities for the future.

The answer that this government has provided for students in post-secondary education, the answer that they have provided to research and development is to cut severely into the ability of this country to produce what we so direly need and that is a higher tech society—a society that can compete on a world basis.

When we heard the UI cuts, we heard there was going to be training for people. We are going to put that into place so that people who are displaced will be retrained. I haven't seen any evidence of that happening. We were also told during the free trade debate that we have to change from being drawers of water and hewers of wood to a society much better able to handle high-tech areas of this world. Yet the government cut research and development. It cut post-secondary education, which means it cut our future. It cut the future of those people who are able to develop higher skills. That is a travesty.

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Let us look at the welfare program and the cuts or caps there. We have been hearing for months about the slowing down of the economy. The signs are very clear. Auto workers are being laid off in my region. Many, many people are having a lot more difficulty securing jobs than before. We have seen difficulty after difficulty across this country. There is a crisis in the maritime provinces. British Columbia has had a fair amount of suffering in the fishing industry as well. We know that the farmers in the prairie provinces are in a disastrous situation. Unemployment insurance rules have been changed, or are in the process of being changed, so people who become out of work will get less benefits than they would have just a year ago. Those cut-backs in UI are there when we are coming into a very difficult economy. What do we see? We see the federal government's obligation to the provinces being capped. In other words, it is telling the provinces that this huge problem of slow-down, created by high interest rates and mismanagement of monetary and fiscal planning, is going to come down on the heads of the provinces, because they are going to have to carry the extra expenses.

It is a real travesty when we realize that more people are going to be out of work in this country, as clearly stated by the Minister of Finance. The government has cut back its UI support. It is now cutting back its welfare support. Who is going to pay the bill? At least the provinces are caring governments. They are going to have to carry those expenses. It is a shame that this government, through mismanagement, is dropping that responsibility on the provinces.

When I mentioned the crisis across the country, this budget is glaring in the fact that it did nothing to deal with the Atlantic fisheries crisis; the farming issue in the west, or in Ontario; or the auto industry and the