

*The Budget*

Saturday December 19 1981, that he had to modify his budget because it was incorrect.

• (1650)

Madam Speaker, among others things, I have here, in this press clipping, 16 different amendments made by the then minister of Finance, the honorable Allan MacEachen. May be, he could compare or share with us his comments on the difference in credibility between the present minister of Finance who, I think, for the last five years, has proven his capacity to make responsible budgets to correct the mistakes of the previous Trudeau government which left us a \$200 billion deficit and the situation that we know while the then government was saying: "We will never freeze wages." It is the same government which, a few months later, when it was in office, put a freeze on wages and prices and so on, increasing the tax on gas which rose from 18 cents to over a dollar. Maybe he could comment on the good times when he was a colleague of the then minister of Finance, M. MacEachen.

[English]

**Mr. Allmand:** Madam Speaker, with respect to the praise given by the ex-Minister of Finance for Quebec, Mr. Landry, who was a minister of finance for the PQ government in Quebec, I never had any confidence in Mr. Landry when he was the minister of finance in Quebec and neither did the people of Quebec because they threw that government out, including Mr. Landry.

As a matter of that, that PQ government led by Mr. Levesque, of which Mr. Landry was the Minister of Finance, wreaked economic havoc on the province of Quebec. If Mr. Landry is praising the Minister of Finance for his budget, I would caution the Minister of Finance from taking that praise too seriously.

My hon. colleague, who is the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration and with whom I work frequently, quotes articles and editorials from newspapers praising the budget. If he wants to get into a game of matching editorials with editorials I could bring into the House a pile of them, which would be four or five times greater than his, condemning the budget. As a matter of fact, if I had time I would start reading them. I have here a whole booklet full of editorials and comments by various associations,

groups, newspapers and commentators condemning the budget.

No doubt there are some groups in this country, such as the Fraser Institute and others, which think this is a wonderful budget. Most right-wing Tory-thinking organizations think it is a wonderful budget because all they have in mind is the deficit. Reduce the deficit even though you kill our post-secondary education system, even though you throw people out of hospitals. No matter what you do, protect the rich and kick the poor in the ass.

**Mr. Milliken:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grace, I know, has a lot of editorials and documents that would be of interest to members. I wonder if there would be consent to have them printed as an appendix to today's *Hansard*?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. members:** No.

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** Resuming debate. The hon. member for Mercier.

**Mrs. Carole Jacques (Mercier):** Madam Speaker, on February 20, the Minister of Finance brought down his 1990 Budget. I want to congratulate the minister on another job well-done.

We all know that the economy of the country is based on growth. As a country becomes more prosperous, its economy improves.

When we came to power in 1984, the economic situation in this country was deplorable. We had a national debt of \$200 billion and a deficit of \$38 billion. Canadians gave us a clear mandate to turn around the Canadian economy. That is what we have done, it is what we are doing now and what we will keep on doing.

Reflecting the wishes of Canadians, since 1984 the federal government has introduced structural reforms in the economy in order to enhance our competitive position and improve our potential for expansion and for creating jobs. This strategy has produced some impressive results. In Quebec, for instance, 356,000 new jobs were created. Unfortunately, our potential for growth is eroded by a crushing debt that has mortgaged the future