

The Budget—Mr. Gillespie

reasons why provincial representatives are now meeting in Ottawa.

Incidentally, when provincial representatives meet here in Ottawa, it is not to discuss social, humanitarian or language problems, but to talk exclusively about money. In my opinion, the federal government should assume its responsibilities in order to be able to give the provinces the money they need for their own administration at a social and reasonable interest rate and not at the usurious rate of $8\frac{1}{4}$ per cent which the authorities of the town of Saint-Jean have just paid on \$480,000 loan.

That is an abominable absurdity which is respected and accepted even by our administrators. The government cannot raise taxes any more, Mr. Speaker, because people do not have enough money to ensure a decent standard of living for their families. Houses, land and properties are sold to pay taxes. Agricultural products are difficult to sell or cannot be sold at all, just like manufacturers' products, not because they are not good, but because those who would need them have no money to buy them. They have no money to buy them because there are too many taxes, too many duties, in short, because the prices and the cost of living are too high.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must interrupt the hon. member to tell him that the time allotted to him has unfortunately expired.

The hon. member might obtain the consent of the house to continue his remarks for a brief time. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Unfortunately, there is no unanimity.

[*English*]

Mr. Alastair Gillespie (Etobicoke): Mr. Speaker, in this my first speech to the house I should like to draw your attention to the fact that Etobicoke is a new riding. It forms a large part of the old riding of York West which was represented with such distinction in this house by Mr. Robert Winters.

The lands, rivers and people of this area played an important role in the early development of our nation. Over three centuries ago it was the place for commerce, exploration and discovery. Its people looked to the future rather than to the past. They looked for and sought a future better than they had. They sought the good life for themselves and for others.

[*Mr. Latulippe.*]

And so it is today, Mr. Speaker. Our concern for the future must be based on the same principles; and it is in this context that I should like to talk about some of the conditions that we have to create in Canada for our future development. In particular I want to refer to creating conditions for investment, for fostering a strong Canadian point of view, and for sustaining confidence in our institutions, starting with the need to reform this house and its procedures.

The case against inflation has been made so many times and so cogently, Mr. Speaker, that I do not propose to repeat the arguments here except to draw your attention to the problems of government financing and of financing our future economic growth in the private sector.

There are some who say that full employment and inflation go hand in hand, that one cannot enjoy the benefits of the one without paying the price of the other. They would promote the idea that a little inflation is a good thing, that it is good for business, that it promotes prosperity and keeps things going. In my view, Mr. Speaker, nothing could be more dangerous. This is the most corrupting philosophy of them all—short term euphoria, like the pathetic rationalization of the addict in the early period of his addiction protesting the wisdom of his own foolishness. Over a period of 15 years a 1 per cent deterioration per year in the value of our money amounts to a discount of 15 per cent. What man is going to lend \$100 now, Mr. Speaker, if he can expect in return only \$85?

The funds that are used to finance government deficits and extra budgetary needs, to purchase government bonds, federal, provincial or municipal, are mostly the collective savings of millions of Canadians. They are the premiums that are paid on life insurance policies and the deductions made from the weekly pay cheque for future pension benefits. Yet there has been a tendency in many quarters to identify those who purchase bonds with the "haves", as if the beneficiaries of the borrowings were the "have nots". Surely it is time to recognize that they are one and the same person.

The point to be made is this. Federal government extra budgetary needs plus provincial and municipal government spending are going to require enormous sums each and every year. Little of this development can take place unless we show the lenders that we can control inflation. And for the same reasons, Mr. Speaker, corporate expansion