

of Canada in the House of Commons or their suggestions to this government?

We had a budget early on in March, but what has happened since then? We have had substantially worsening inflation. We have an unemployment prospect for this winter which is horrifying. We now have the announcement by the minister that the government is going to withdraw wage and price controls. In economic terms, we have these developments six to eight months after the budget is brought down. We are denied a new budget which rightfully we should have had to deal with these horrendous economic prospects. Instead, we are thwarted in any discussion or in making any recommendations. This government seems incapable of running this country, economically or otherwise.

We now have the prospect of the government trying to ram this bill through by curtailing discussion. This means the people of Canada will not have full discussion of the economic matters on which the people of this country think we should be spending our time. In fact they are demanding that we spend time on these matters.

I say, therefore, to the minister—who has disappeared from the chamber after his outburst—that the fact of the matter is that it will not do him any good to try to confuse the issue by saying the opposition is responsible for the mismanagement of this country. I do not think for one moment that anyone who gives any thought to the whole process of parliament and the idea of responsibility of government will pay any attention to that kind of specious argument. The government proposes, and this forum of parliament is the place where elected representatives have the right to speak about what is happening and make recommendations based on what the people they represent are suggesting in respect of economic matters.

We would like to have made a number of specific propositions in respect of this bill. The life insurance provisions continue to be in a mess. The \$100 tax cut should be made in 1977, not in 1988. I would suggest that roll-over provisions to help small corporations, farmers and small businessmen to pass enterprises over to their children should be included in this legislation. There should be no taxation on home insulation grants. It is almost an insane proposition to make these grants and then tax the money in the hands of the recipients. That is what will happen with the exception of two Liberal provinces where the rules are quite different. No wonder the government is receiving few applications under this plan.

These are legitimate suggestions which we on this side want to put to the government, but it refuses to listen to anybody. It blames the opposition for everything and refuses to bring matters before parliament, due to its basic contempt for this institution. There are a number of propositions which we in this party intend to set out. Members on our side wish to tell the House precisely what we think this government—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. I regret to inform the hon. member that his allotted time has expired.

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I think this is the second time in two weeks I have had to get

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up—and I do not like putting myself forward to speak too frequently—to oppose the imposition of closure by the government. I never thought it would come to this day. I come from a parliamentary legislature where the value of speaking and the value of being able to express your view is well recognized. I believe the only time in my ten years in the Newfoundland legislature that we had closure was on an occasion brought in by the Liberal government of the late J. R. Smallwood, and I say “late” not in the sense of the fact that that gentleman is now deceased, because he is not; he is travelling across Canada saving us; he is speaking on the national unity question across Canada, with his trips paid for by the privy council. When I say “late”, I do not mean deceased, but that gentleman brought in closure once, on interim supply. That is the only time in my ten years in the Newfoundland House it was ever done. If it has happened twice here in the last two weeks. What has the government to hide, that is the question?

An hon. Member: Plenty.

Mr. Crosbie: Apparently it must be plenty, Mr. Speaker.

An hon. Member: Incompetence.

Mr. Crosbie: Incompetence, yes; but they cannot hide that. It is pretty difficult to hide incompetence, but they have certainly got it. Let me take one instance of the difficulty we have been having in committee of the whole. In committee of the whole, for it to function properly you must have a minister who believes in parliament, a minister who believes in the democratic process, a minister who believes in giving information and answering questions. In our committee of the whole we have not had a minister who believes in any of these things.

For example, the minister was asked the other day, repeatedly—I think it was last Friday—what it would cost if clause 6 of the bill was amended, taking out the provision that home insulation grants under the CHIP program would be taxable in eight provinces but not in Nova Scotia or P.E.I. If that provision came out of the bill so grants were not taxable in any province, what would it cost? The Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) gave the extraordinary answer that it would cost \$560 million. You might ask, Mr. Speaker, why it is extraordinary for the minister to collect \$560 million in taxes over the next seven years from these grants. I hope he is listening, because he has a lot to learn. But he does not appear to want to learn, and is pacing restlessly about the chamber like a caged tiger. He cannot wait to get closure in so he will not have to answer any further. There would have to be grants to four million householders. The minister says he would collect \$560 million over the next seven years from people who had received the home insulation grant. The maximum is \$350 if you are living in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Quebec or British Columbia, the Northwest Territories or the Yukon. If you live in Nova Scotia or P.E.I., the maximum is \$500. We will forget about that for now.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) says they are going to spend \$2.4 billion over the next