

The Budget—Mr. Trudeau

amount of profit you need to finance new investment, remember the budget; remember the ways in which we have reduced your costs."

• (1720)

We are saying to the working man, "Here's an income tax cut which gives you this year between \$150 and \$500 extra take home pay, non-taxable, and even more next year. That could take care of your increased food costs in the run of a year. We're helping you through reduction of various sales taxes. We want you to take this into account when you're making your wage demands. You don't have to get as much more pay as you otherwise might, because we're giving you a portion of it. And remember, if we're allowing you to keep \$250, for example, through the tax cut, it's really equivalent to about \$380 if you had to get it through taxable income from your employer."

Canada, Mr. Speaker, is a country which has become a great country because of the willingness of its people to work out their differences in a spirit of fairness and mutual respect.

[Translation]

That respect, Mr. Speaker, is fundamental, if the structure of our country is to remain intact, if the strength of our people is to keep on increasing. That is why today I have quite extensively spoken about the problem of inflation, particularly in the oil field, why I have tried to explain the problem and its solution. Of course, Mr. Speaker, in a conflict of interests opposing ten provinces, specifically consuming and producing provinces, and also opposing these provinces to the federal government, since, after all, it is always the same taxpayer who has to foot the bill at all levels of government, in this type of tension which I should hope would be creative between the various levels of government, it is important that citizens and parliamentarians alike understand the true nature of the problem and the solutions we are proposing.

That is why I mentioned two things, Mr. Speaker. I have talked somewhat regretfully of the bitterness which marked this debate and which I have found again in the mouths of the Leader of the Opposition, some of his colleagues, and also, unfortunately, of many people, especially in western Canada, a bitterness which results from a lack of understanding, Mr. Speaker, and also from the fact that we ourselves had not explained fully the principles on which I elaborated today and which cause all Canadians to wish to share in these resources which belong to them. That is why I have asked the opposition parties to put forward, not only criticisms of our policy, but alternatives as well which they might feel are superior, and which we ourselves would be happy to adopt if in fact they are. But, I beg of them, let them drop the tone of bitterness, of perverseness, which has permeated this debate as well as those that preceded and followed the budget speech, and which does great harm to this country. That is the first point I wanted to make.

I am happy to say, Mr. Speaker, that the accusations made in bad faith did not come from the premiers of the western provinces; but, unfortunately, they came from hon. members opposite. I am also happy that, down deep, in spite of our disagreements, the Alberta and Saskatchewan premiers do not accuse us of bad faith, of misunder-

[Mr. Trudeau.]

standing; they do accuse us of having interests that conflict with their own; but, I say it again, Mr. Speaker, bad faith does not belong in our debates.

The second point I wanted to bring up is this: what strikes me, as the lack of seriousness—if I may use that gentle expression—shown by some of the leaders of other provinces which benefit considerably from the oil policy we adopted in March, and who, probably for reasons of political or interprovincial solidarity, manage to give reason to Alberta and Saskatchewan in the current debate, against the federal government and the budget of the Minister of Finance, giving them reason in theory, while pocketing in practice the benefits accruing to them through our budget.

[English]

The spirit of equitable compromise among differing interests is the glue which holds us together. We are a nation, not because of the borders which surround us but because of our common resolve to live together in peace, tolerance and justice, sharing both the burdens and the benefits of this bountiful land. I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that the current problems of which I have spoken today can be resolved by Canadians, whether in public or private life, working together in a spirit of compromise and co-operation toward greater social and economic justice for all. To that spirit and toward that goal I commit the Government of Canada.

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THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received from the administrative secretary to the Governor General which is as follows:

Government House
November 27, 1974

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Wishart F. Spence, O.B.E., Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Administrator of the Government of Canada, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, November 27, at 5.45 p.m.—

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: This is a point of order also. One at a time.

—for the purpose of giving royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,
André Garneau
Brigadier General
Administrative Secretary
to the Governor General