

The Budget—Mr. Sevigny

Another thing makes us believe that our friends opposite are probably not too sincere when they criticize the measures contained in the budget. Several of those measures are part of the very program announced by the Liberals during their recent convention here in Ottawa. As a matter of fact, their measures are copied from the measures mentioned in the speech from the throne and in the budget introduced by the Minister of Finance.

You heard the Liberals during their convention talk about increased pensions to veterans and about a program of urban re-development. Their supporters promised tax reductions and accelerated depreciations in order to attract the industry in the under-developed sectors of the nation. Those are measures already mentioned in the speech from the throne and in the budget of the Minister of Finance, measures which were criticized by our friends opposite, but which they adopted yet with enthusiasm during their recent convention. It is not therefore inconsistent to say that the so-called dynamic and imaginative measures which were to change the concept of Canadian political thinking and which the Liberals announced with great publicity are copied from the suggestions put forward by the Conservative government and are simply a plagiarism of the thinking of the leaders of this party.

Mr. Speaker, the Liberals, power thirsty and anxious to get votes at any price, have put forward many other measures during their convention, measures which on the one hand are ultra-socialist—in order to please the left wing of their party—and on the other hand, measures of an inflationary nature, and lastly economic measures which, if adopted, would increase the annual budget deficit of the nation to over \$1 billion. However, there is one thing we must realize: it is impossible to over-increase expenditures while reducing revenues and expect anything but fantastic deficits.

Since I accuse the Liberals of having plagiarized measures put forward by the Conservative government, it must be said also that they have copied the program announced in this house by the right hon. Prime Minister when he said that a royal commission would be established to study the national health situation. In fact the very same Liberals outlined in high sounding words a health insurance plan which was only a repetition of the statement made in this house by the right hon. Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words about this national defence policy announced by the Liberals during their recent convention. As you know, they long have accused this government of having a wrong defence policy. They accuse the government of not recognizing the basic principles which should govern the defence of our country. They had announced long ago that they had sensational ideas concerning defence, which were really to change the concept of public opinion on that question. We therefore all expected with interest some announcement with regard to such steps, and it was a matter of general surprise to find that the Liberal defence policy consisted in having no defence at all.

The speech of the hon. Leader of the Opposition was received with applause on one side and by an eloquent silence on the other. It was therefore in no way surprising that some American journalists did not hesitate to suggest a royal commission of psychiatrists to investigate the state of mind of Liberal leaders who could imagine such a dangerous defence policy. And it is indeed dangerous, because such a defence policy would leave our country completely defenceless against any potential attack by an enemy.

It is hardly surprising that other journalists should state that in the United States people did not believe that Canadians were foolish enough to pay serious attention to statements by people whose aim is to form the government of this country one day, more particularly as regards statements of defence policies and theories as fantastic as those advocated during the recent Liberal rally.

We must conclude from all that, that the recent Liberal convention was a resounding failure, and we believe that our hon. friends opposite will have to make a great effort if they want to regain the confidence of responsible citizens, who are very much disappointed by what happened during that rally which was to change and revolutionize everything.

Mr. Gerard Filion of *Le Devoir* gave a good summary of Canadian opinion on this matter in Saturday's issue, dated January 21, where he said:

The Liberal party has just wound up an important meeting in Ottawa. It has brought up a program which, obviously, will serve as the theme for the general elections of 1962. We find in it some good, less good, and definitely bad things.

The good things, Mr. Speaker, are those which have been copied out of the Conservative program; the less good things are those—