

The Budget—Mr. Cadieu

I am appalled at the minister's claim that raising exemptions for the lower income and middle income groups will result in a substantial saving in income tax payments. For the past two years the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) has been urging the government to cut income tax rates for these income groups in order to allow them a better chance to achieve more than just a bare subsistence and also to put more money into circulation where it is needed the most.

More money is needed for the private purchaser to buy necessities and even luxury items. This might have been accomplished by cutting tax rates for the income group up to about \$10,000 per year. Instead, the Minister of Finance loudly proclaimed that exemptions would be raised for single persons and couples and then quietly announced that tax rates would be raised correspondingly. As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, the result in most cases will be higher rather than lower taxes in the income group that is already carrying a disproportionate share of the national tax burden. This is deception, but as I mentioned before it is also a clear indication that the government is desperately trying to stop the leak in the dike. The Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) and the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) have a pipeline to the public treasury and it must impose a very severe strain on the government just to provide those two hon. gentlemen with enough funds to keep them happy.

• (5:30 p.m.)

Then there is the "minister of propaganda". Surely he must require vast sums of money to do his "thing". He has the second largest personal staff in the government—second only, of course, to that of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). Then there are the information projects and broadcasts prepared and funded by the information minister to inform the Canadian people of all the things that this benevolent government is doing for them. Then there is a program of saturation on radio stations across the country, contracted for by the information ministry, which smacks of propaganda in the best tradition of the infamous Goebbels. One such program asked the question: Is there any country you would rather live in than Canada? That is a variation of the old saw: Do you still beat your wife? Of course there is no country that I would rather live in and I resent having anyone dip into my pocket for the money to buy national radio time to ask me such a question.

But this kind of question is only the beginning, Mr. Speaker. Further on the question was asked: Do you know of any other country that has fewer problems, or a country that offers more opportunities to its people? This is a question that you can get both hands on. I seem to have heard somewhere that there are countries in Europe, such as West Germany, where there are so many jobs that there are not enough people to fill them. I do not know how many problems other countries have but I do have some idea how many problems Canada has, and I am disappointed that the government did not provide some measures in this budget to cope with them.

[Mr. Cadieu.]

We have problems, many of them serious, but it will not serve any good purpose to buy expensive national radio coverage in order to ask Canadians if they know of a country that has fewer problems. This is propaganda at its worst. It is a device that is intended to divert the minds of Canadians from their own problems by implying that everyone else in the world is worse off than they are. This is negativism at its very worst.

The radio programs I have spoken of also mention that people in Canada should make an effort to learn the languages of their fellow Canadians. This should make for some interesting conjectures. Just what languages does the information minister have in mind? Does he mean that we should all learn Ukrainian, Italian and Greek? I think not, Mr. Speaker. What it is intended to do is reinforce the government's so far abortive efforts to make all Canada bilingual in French and in English. This is a multicultural country where almost every language on the face of the earth is spoken. The only languages that the minister is thinking of are French and English, not the languages I have mentioned.

The information minister is working hand in hand with the Secretary of State to force a language on the majority of Canadians that they will never have to use. This massive program is designed purely and simply as a sop, as an accommodation to the province of Quebec. If the government spent only one-tenth of their effort and resources in trying to solve the real problems of the country, we would all be inclined to accept their programs and budgets with open minds and give the government our complete co-operation.

However, Mr. Speaker, it is difficult, if not impossible, to accept this document in the spirit in which it was tabled in this House. This is not a budget that will allow Parliament to chart a course for prosperity, full employment and equitable taxation. This budget is full of deceptions. There are more twists and turns in its terminology than anyone can reasonably excuse.

It is obvious that the money for such programs as Opportunities for Youth, the Company of Young Canadians, the Information Canada propaganda crusades, the federal bilingualism programs and the multitude of political patronage programs comes from somewhere. The hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Stewart) stated a few days ago that the Opportunities for Youth program was "the fiasco of the decade". That sentiment has been echoed often from this side of the House but it was very heartening indeed to hear a member of the other side condemn the government for its blunders and its crass ineptness.

It is a sad day for Canada when a government of a great country like this chooses to budget hundreds of millions of dollars a year to support radicals and kooks whose sole purpose in life is to tear down Canadian institutions—

Mr. Boulanger: Come, now!

Mr. Cadieu: —whose announced goals are to fight against everything for which Canada has stood for more than 100 years. I search in vain for some small indication