

*The Budget—Mr. Monteith*

*Globe and Mail* of December 2. It reads as follows:

It's hard even now to keep a straight face about those economies in government which the Minister of Finance has been promising to bring out of his hat any day—that is, any day for the past two months.

The following is an excerpt from the Toronto daily *Star* of December 2:

The main weight of his mini-budget falls on the back of the ordinary wage-earning family which is already hard-pressed to meet the inflationary rise in living costs.

Further on it continues:

The ordinary wage earner is already having a difficult time coping with the rising cost of housing, food and clothing, caused in part by Mr. Sharp's mishandling of the economy in the past year.

Now he is blithely asked to lay out an average increase of \$40 in personal income tax to help pay for the finance minister's miscalculations.

He is also asked to accept the increased risk of unemployment as a direct result of the Sharp budget.

The following is a quotation from the *Financial Times of Canada* of December 4:

The mini-budget is not, as it appears, a futile charge "into the jaws of death, into the mouth of hell". It is an over dramatized package of rather desperate devices to keep the federal government solvent by reducing the gap between expenditures and revenues to an amount which it can reasonably expect to be able to borrow.

Further on it continues:

Until then—

This refers to some needed clarifications by the minister.

—Mr. Sharp can hardly expect his little tax devices to be accepted as a serious attack on inflation rather than an attempt to atone for the sins of yesteryear.

I think it is obvious what has happened. As I said earlier, my colleagues who will be following me in this debate will deal with the Carter report, the Kennedy round tariff negotiations, and many other matters. I have tried to demonstrate the cost to Mr. Average Canadian of what this government has been doing, particularly over the last two years, by way of increasing taxes and by its lack of action to combat inflation.

The cost of living has risen sky high. I gave the illustration of a typical Stratford family. I have never seen such a mass of opinion and such a mass of evidence clearly indicating that the government has erred beyond redemption.

[Mr. Monteith.]

Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes (Mr. Régimbal):

That all the words after "that" be deleted and the following substituted therefore:

This house regrets that the government by its vacillation and its failure to manage the economic and financial affairs of the country in a responsible manner has created a situation of instability and uncertainty, and has now proposed an increase in taxes to meet governmental extravagance, thus contributing to the inflationary pressures of the economy.

**Mr. Olson:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I do not have the amendment in written form in my hand at the moment, but it is quite clear to me from listening to the hon. member, when he read it, that the substance of the amendment has been dealt with at least twice during the current session. I wonder if Your Honour would therefore be good enough to wait until I have a copy of the amendment before I advance the argument which I am sure will convince Your Honour that it is completely out of order.

Now that I have the amendment before me I wish to speak on the point of order. I draw Your Honour's attention first to the amendment which was moved in the house on June 6 and on which a vote was taken on October 10. Without agreeing with any of the words contained in the amendment, this was the question put before the house when the vote was taken and negatived on October 10. At that time the same hon. member for Perth (Mr. Monteith) moved:

● (4:00 p.m.)

This government has failed miserably to set an example of responsibility by its refusal to reduce taxation—

Then, a number of other matters were mentioned. Of course, Mr. Speaker, the meaning of the amendment is exactly the same as the complaint made now in so far as the levels of taxation are concerned. The reference now is to the proposed increase in taxation.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, the other prong of the amendment we have before us relates to the vacillation and the government's failure to manage the economic and financial affairs of the country in a responsible manner. I suggest to Your Honour this part of the amendment means essentially the same thing. The substance of it is essentially the same as the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) on