

*The Budget—Mr. Caron*

Those were the statements the Minister of Finance made on January 11, 1960. He was afraid that prosperity might escape him, that it might expand to a point where he could not catch up with it.

Was that his only statement? No, Mr. Speaker. Let us read the New Year's message of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Starr) on December 30, 1959:

Prospects for the coming year fill us with confidence.

At the end of 1959, or at the beginning of 1960, he saw everything through rose-coloured glasses; everything was fine. The Minister of Labour was confident with regard to the future. It was a mistake to nurture this belief and not to see that a stop be put to the wave of unemployment we are experiencing today.

Further on, we see that the Minister of Trade and Commerce not the present minister, but his predecessor—stated on December 28, 1960:

In the past, the accelerated rhythm has quickened again, and the main economic factors at this time indicate renewed expansion. The international economic climate seems very favourable at this time.

At the end of 1959, the Minister of Trade and Commerce foresaw great prosperity throughout Canada in 1960. And what did we have? Distress, ever and always unemployment. Plants are only working a few days a week, as they are unable to get rid of their surplus production. And this is what the Minister of Labour said, on page 512 of *Hansard*, of January 29, 1960:

And what about recession? Everybody knows that it is over.

Again, at the end of January 1959, the Minister of Labour stated:

Everyone is agreed that the recession is over.

Is that the statement of a responsible man, of a man who is studying the economic reports submitted by government experts? Those reports have simply been shelved and now they come back to the old rigmarole.

Further on, as we may see on page 1701 of the official record, the Minister of Labour said:

It is not only the government that claim that the recession is over... I am very much surprised that the only people I hear expressing contrary points of view on this matter are the opposition in this house.

He was surprised to see that members of the opposition who although they lacked the same research facilities as the government were the only ones who knew more about what was to happen than they themselves knew in 1959.

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May I quote the statement made by the Minister of Finance on March 31, last, in his budget speech, and which we find at page 2670 of *Hansard*:

I am confident that employment will rise as the coming of spring opens up new job opportunities and as the economy continues its upward trend.

That is what the Minister of Finance said on March 31 and what happened? He was forced to change his statement because of his lack of foresight and to tell us that instead of a \$12 million surplus he had forecast, he would have a deficit of some \$300 million.

I could go on like this almost indefinitely, and quote the ministers who took turn in showing lack of foresight.

No mistake about it, none so blind as those who will not see. They do not see, Mr. Speaker, but tomorrow they will see that the Liberal party will form the next government of this country.

After the budget was presented, Mr. Speaker, I ran across an industrialist who told me that that very night he had made a \$3,500 profit as a result of the changes that were made. I asked him if he intended to distribute those \$3,500 among his employees. Here is his answer: "Not at all; they are all members of the union; they are being paid good wages".

That is what he said. For the little men, nothing at all. The profits go to average and big industrialists. Besides, we notice this tendency of this government to help the big fellow. When we discussed the combines act, the government did even more to help the big fellow at the expense of the little man; the industrialist is given the powers of judge and master of the whole situation; if he thinks somebody has done a certain thing, he does not even have to prove it.

This is the way the Conservative government has been running the country since 1957, and that is why we are in such a fix that the people of Canada regret the mistake they made and are anxious for an opportunity to rectify that mistake.

What is left to the public? What is being done for people who are in need, for the unemployed? Nothing. Has the government tried to reduce interest rates so that construction may pick up and create employment? Not at all. Has there been any attempt to reduce taxes to put more money in circulation, to revive the economy of this country? Not at all. This government is doing nothing at all.

Mr. Speaker, I have here some opinions of certain people who are independent from the government and who have carefully listened to the budget speech.