

The Budget—Mr. Graftey

has a lot to learn about government inaction. The government has called the Leader of the Opposition "reluctant". It is noteworthy that they have the time to spend on political ploys of this sort. What government has been more reluctant to act in the face of rampant inflation?

Mr. Byrne: The hon. member has said that already. When will he turn the page?

Mr. Graftey: I will say it again and again. The hon. member who is supposed to be a parliamentary secretary sits here day in and day out and heckles.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): He sits on his brain.

Mr. Graftey: Some of the problems facing the government are rampant inflation, a most serious housing crisis, air, water and soil pollution, urban blight, development and redevelopment, rising interest rates, and rising unemployment. If the present Liberal government would spend less time analysing the new Progressive Conservative leader and more time dealing with the problems of the country, Canadians would not be losing confidence in the government as fast as they are. The government has forgotten one simple fact relating to progressive leadership.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Only one?

Mr. Graftey: Leadership by exhortation and speech making is useless unless it is coupled with leadership by example. The supporters of the government seem to be very irritable today. They are yelling. Perhaps they are worried. Perhaps during the week end they went back to their ridings where some of their constituents have spoken to them.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Did the hon. member say "yelling" or "yellow"?

Mr. Graftey: Leadership by speech making and exhortation never takes the place of leadership by example. What have been the effects of the government's policies in general and this so-called budget in particular? It can be admitted that productivity cannot withstand a large corporation tax hike. I will concede that, in view of the fact that the government's policies have already seriously handicapped Canada's competitive position and national productivity.

[Mr. Graftey.]

One of the measures taken by the government in the latest budget was to raise the income tax. Who will get it in the neck again? I wish the Minister of Finance would listen. Who will get it in the neck again?

Mr. Sharp: The Minister of Finance.

Mr. Graftey: Oh, no, not the Minister of Finance. It will be those who are least able to pay. This condition already exists in this country and that is why, in spite of our so-called second highest standard of living in the world, these people are not getting their share of the national wealth.

• (3:30 p.m.)

Who suffers most from present economic conditions when, coupled with another increase in personal income tax, we have poor housing, a record high cost of living, high interest rates and high unemployment? The answer is the silent, voiceless poor, those on fixed and shrinking incomes who are often locked in grinding poverty. These people invariably are not assisted by public or private social welfare measures. Our party and our leader believe in the quality of Canadian life. I ask this government, what does the quality of Canadian life or democracy mean to the 35 per cent of our population living in deprivation, destitution or poverty?

Mr. Byrne: You are talking about six or seven years ago.

Mr. Graftey: Does the hon. member get an extra salary for heckling? I know he is not what one would term the most distinguished member.

Mr. Byrne: I am just stating facts.

Mr. Graftey: The hon. member has the reputation of being about the poorest speech interrupter. Has he ever read *Hansard* and noted his interruptions? If the hon. member does not mind my saying so, he has not too high an I.Q.

Mr. Byrne: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Graftey: If I could have the assistance of the Chair I should like to continue this speech.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): The hon. member for Kootenay East on a point of order.

Mr. Byrne: Mr. Speaker, at least when I make a speech I do not read it word for