

The Budget—Mr. H. E. Monteith

The *Windsor Star*, December 21, 1960, page 2, reads:

To the ordinary individual it was just another Tuesday evening, as far as the baby budget of the Hon. Mr. Fleming was concerned.

(Translation):

I see in *La Presse* for December 22, 1960, an editorial entitled:

A stopgap budget.

This article reads as follows:

Mr. Fleming's biggest mistake is his failure to believe, last spring, in spite of warnings from all parts, that the unemployment situation was serious. If, at that moment he had taken the steps he is now announcing, the situation today would perhaps be better instead of worse.

(Text):

The following extracts appeared in newspapers across Canada, a résumé of which appeared in the *Winnipeg Tribune*, December 22, 1960.

The *Ottawa Citizen* states:

Canada's unemployed must be prepared to dig in for a long, tough winter.

The *Vancouver Sun* says:

Of immediate stimulation to the economy there is practically nothing.

Then the *Victoria Times* has this to say:

In his latest budget, Mr. Fleming attempts to cure three years of financial miscalculation.

The *Toronto Star* states:

Donald Fleming's supplementary budget may win a niche in history as the one which began to Canadianize our economy. But it does almost nothing about a more urgent matter—getting nearly 500,000 unemployed back to work.

The *Toronto Globe and Mail* says:

The essential problem of the Canadian economy remains—high prices caused by high costs, which are caused in large part by high taxes.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, I could quote about ten other non-partisan opinions, all condemning the budget.

In conclusion, may I add that this budget offers so little in the way of new ideas, does so little to remedy the present crisis, that our hon. friends opposite have said almost nothing about it. They have wasted the time at their disposal on remarks about the Liberal rally which was so successful that it made them forget their baby budget.

That budget gives a true picture of the government with all its confusion and contradictions. It has, incidentally, contradicted the previous one, and it will probably be contradicted by the next.

(Text):

Mr. H. E. Monteith (Verdun): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few humble remarks in connection with the budget. I also wish to compliment the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) for the excellent provisions he has

[Mr. Clermont.]

included in the budget. I will not go into detail as to the many acts which have been passed in this house to alleviate a situation which was well in the making before this government came into power. I shall only mention two acts which have been passed during this session which I believe will be of great interest to my constituents as well as to the nation at large.

We are living today in one of the wealthiest countries in the world and our big problem is how we are going to spread this wealth? We must all realize that this country is going through a great transition, from manual labour to automation, from one industry to another and from one district to another. Old industries are disappearing and new ones are cropping up. Old skills are losing ground while new skills are in great demand. While governments at all levels are doing much to ease the situation caused by these great changes which are taking place, I do believe that a great responsibility lies with the Canadian individual. When our ancestors settled in this country they had no social security, they had no unemployment insurance, no family allowances and no old age pensions. They had to create, build and plan for their own security.

The government through legislation, the scientist through research and the industrialist through venture are all putting opportunities before us every day. It is up to the individual to prepare himself for the challenge of this rapidly changing country. I personally believe that this government, through Bill No. C-49, an act respecting technical and vocational training, is putting before the Canadian youth an opportunity to avail itself of skills and trades which will fit them into the prevailing industries.

Also our older citizens who are unfortunate to be unemployed through changing times may now, while receiving their unemployment benefits, improve their present crafts or acquire others more in keeping with the requirements of the new industries. This act alone will do much for the present and future of Canada.

There is another bill which I should like to mention, an act respecting loans to small businesses. The small businessman who has invested his all in an enterprise now has the opportunity to expand and realize his ambitions. The small businessman has been the forgotten man for too many years. He was left on his own to sink or swim. Who knows but that this will be the beginning of many new and large industries.

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, this is the concluding day of the debate on the baby budget and I think it can be said that the main question members can ask in