

Motion Respecting House Vote

An hon. Member: Cheap.

Mr. Sharp: As I was listening to the hon. member—

An hon. Member: How cheap can you get?

Mr. Sharp: —I could see him building up his platform for the next election by making charges of this sort.

Mr. Starr: What about the minister and the leadership?

Mr. Sharp: And if the Leader of the Opposition is hungry for power, the leader of the N.D.P. positively drools at the prospect of an election. The hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam knows that the repayment of the refundable tax was provided for in Bill C-193 by way of a prepayment of corporate tax. All the money for that purpose was provided for in the bill, and I hope that he will correct this inaccuracy. But I suspect that he will go on uttering these statements as if they were gospel truth, even though all the facts are to the contrary. What concerns me about the leader of the N.D.P. is his general attitude of irresponsibility.

An hon. Member: How pompous can you get?

Mr. Sharp: I hope the hon. member has been following events in the United Kingdom where a government of his persuasion is in office. That government has had to devalue its currency. That government has had to go in for tough taxation measures, tough measures of restraint of expenditure. These measures are of unequalled toughness. Why did the government of that country not take the advice of my hon. friend? Or perhaps that is why they got in trouble. Perhaps they got into trouble because they listened to him when he met with them at Chequers when the leaders of the social democratic parties got together to discuss these problems. I know that if the government were to take the advice of the leader of the N.D.P. there would be an economic crisis of major proportion in this country.

Mr. Douglas: There is now.

Mr. Sharp: It would set back its progress for years, and we do not intend to take that advice.

An hon. Member: You did in 1962.

Mr. Sharp: We intend to continue to propose policies to maintain the stability and
[Mr. Sharp.]

prosperity of this country. I remind the house that never before in the history of this country has there been such a prolonged period of expansion, such a prolonged period of prosperity and such a period of unexampled increase in the living standard of Canadians.

Mr. Starr: Starting in 1961.

Mr. Sharp: The record of the progress of Canada since this government took office is without precedent and without parallel. I defy anyone on the other side of the house to find a period in the whole history of this country—

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): When the government has been so bad.

Mr. Sharp: —which will compare with the record of the economic progress of this country since this government has been in office.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Sharp: We are now facing a period of difficulty which has been brought on largely by reasons that are beyond our control.

Mr. Stanfield: Well, now.

Mr. Starr: What was the minister doing all the time?

Mr. Ricard: That is irresponsible.

Mr. Sharp: This will require from the government tough decisions and it will require from the people of Canada a high degree of co-operation and restraint. This government intends to do what is necessary and I, as Minister of Finance, intend to discharge my responsibilities.

Mr. Stanfield: You should resign.

Mr. Sharp: The Canadian dollar, as I have said on several previous occasions, is on trial.

An hon. Member: So are you.

Mr. Sharp: Yes, and this government is on trial. I admit that.

An hon. Member: It is not going to survive.

Mr. Sharp: Yes, it is, and it is going to pass this test just as the Canadian dollar is going to pass its test. The world is watching the performance of the Canadian economy—

Mr. Starr: And shuddering.

Mr. Sharp: —and the markets and the prices of Canadian government bonds are