

The Budget—Mr. Holtmann

Mr. Holtmann: These are the facts. The article continues:

Mr. Turner, of course, is perfectly free to challenge Mr. Wilson's projections and present his own analysis to show that employment will not increase. Canadians then could judge between the two assessments, keeping in mind that, so far, Mr. Wilson's estimates of job creation have been a lot nearer the mark than Mr. Turner's. But Mr. Turner's flat statement that no new jobs are contemplated is simply false.

In other words, people across Canada have recognized that the statements made by the Leader of the Official Opposition, the man who would like to be the Prime Minister, were totally false. That is from the *Winnipeg Free Press* and that is what we found out from average Canadians who listened to our Budget and listened to what had to be said. Let me now go to the New Democratic Party and continue with this editorial in the *Winnipeg Free Press*:

Lorne Nystrom of the NDP: "There is nothing there for the resource industries, for western grain farmers, for farmers in general".

In fact, there is something for grain farmers—next year's share of \$1 billion in Government assistance. The complaint about the lack of more help for the oil industry sounds strange coming from the member of a party which has complained shrilly against the help that the Government has tried to give that industry in the past.

Manitoba Finance Minister Eugene Kostyra:—

Mr. Kostyra, by the way, just brought down his Budget and I will refer to that a little later. Let me continue:

"Apparently he is not serious about bringing in a fair tax system in this country . . . He could have given clear messages that the system is unfair and closed some of the more blatant loopholes."

Wrong again. The Minister did give a clear message that the present system is unfair and he did say he was determined to bring in a fair tax system. He said, among other things: "A fairer and more efficient tax system will implement and reinforce economic opportunities for individual Canadians . . ."

Our Finance Minister said exactly that. Let me continue:

The federal sales tax is unfair and inefficient . . . Our proposal for tax reform will make our system more fair, less complex and more understandable. It will reflect our commitment to economic progress and social justice."

That was said exactly like that by our Minister of Finance, and yet here we have the Finance Minister for the Province of Manitoba saying that the Minister did not even refer to it. I wonder whether these people can listen, hear and comprehend. Apparently they cannot. Let me go on because I find this editorial very interesting and I know Members in the Opposition would like to hear more although it is shattering to their point of view:

Mr. Kostyra knew before the Budget was delivered that the tax reform proposals were not ready to be included in it. He knew that those proposals would be presented to Parliament within the next few months. When they are presented, he may well determine that they do not bring about the kind of reform he would like. Until they are implemented, he can argue that the Government should be doing more to close existing loopholes. He has no grounds at all, however, for declaring, in the face of Mr. Wilson's statements and on the basis of no evidence, that the federal Minister is not interested in tax reform.

I think that is a fairly balanced statement made by the editor. It indicates precisely what our Minister of Finance is dealing with in terms of tax reform. He never shied away from it. He is prepared to face it head on at the appropriate time.

In the concluding part of this editorial it reads:

Mr. Turner and Mr. Nystrom are members of the federal Opposition and, as such, are regarded as free to display a moderate looseness with the facts. Mr. Kostyra is more than simply an Opposition hack. He is Manitoba's Minister of Finance. As such, he is expected to work co-operatively with the federal Government in pursuit of this province's interests. Part of his duty is to denounce federal policies when they clash with the interests of the province. But calling his federal counterpart in effect a liar, without providing a single shred of evidence to support the charge, is cheap and irresponsible politics, not a responsible defence of the provincial interest.

Here we have a point of view expressed by somebody in Manitoba, an editor, and it clearly illustrates that we are on the right track. We are dealing with problems that were handed to us. We would like to move into a more positive approach to the whole economy.

In my riding when I ran for election I was new and anxious to help an area. I made statements. One promise I made is to see what I could do to bring back some economic activity to the then dead commercial parks that we have, one in Selkirk, an industrial park with more than half of the buildings sitting empty. There is no activity of any description. There were, I believe, two buildings out of about eight or nine in which some activity was taking place. Today, with interest rates where they are, with renewed investor confidence in our economy, that industrial park is filling up and employing more people.

● (1720)

Mr. Riis: Where is it?

Mr. Holtmann: In Selkirk. The Hon. Member might want to check it out. There was an article in the Selkirk paper just recently about how that industrial park is starting to flourish. Quite frankly, how could anything be done with interest rates at 22 per cent? We have now strengthened our economy so that people have the confidence to invest. They see a Government with a policy of good money management. Our deficits are starting to come down. We do not like deficits any more than anyone else, but we cannot just wipe them away. Sound money management will gradually bring the deficit down and maintain investor confidence. That, I am quite happy to say, is what is happening in my riding today. There is a renewal of private job creation, not the government job creation that we heard about before. The NDP attitude towards job creation is basically to get the Government to hire all the unemployed. I bet that if they had the opportunity, they would hire every one of the people who are still unemployed and put them on the payroll and say, "Look at what we did". The Liberals tried that.

Mr. Riis: You pay them unemployment insurance, is that any better?

Mr. Fennell: The NDP does not like unemployment insurance.

Mr. Holtmann: The Liberals ran the national debt up to \$160 billion and still could not get everyone working. Let us look at what was said by some of the NDP Members about this Budget. The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) said: