

*The Budget—Mr. Hartt*

that if they can split the electorate they will get a block of votes and be elected. That is what happened in 1943 and 1945. I reassure the house that at no time have the bolshevists elected representatives to this house through the communist vote of Cartier.

I want to express my grateful thanks to the leader of the Progressive Conservative party (Mr. Bracken). He was in Montreal on a Friday three weeks before the election. He was asked whether he would present a candidate, and I understand he said no, that he would not, because he did not desire to split the anti-communist vote. I am grateful to him and I want to make this public acknowledgment. I must also express my thanks to another group—I shall mention their name because I think they can take it—the C.C.F. party. The leader of that party (Mr. Coldwell) refused to be jockeyed into the position of splitting the anti-communist vote in Cartier. I want to thank them and assure them that they have rendered a service to the country. I cannot say the same for the other groups. I know Mr. Masse said he was a social creditor.

Mr. LOW: He was not.

Mr. HARTT: I appreciate that and I accept the word of the leader of that group. He certainly was no credit.

Mr. LOW: He was not even social credit.

Mr. HARTT: He was not even a credit to his parish. The premier of Quebec financed Mr. Masse to the tune of \$30,000. He sent down men to speak from the platform and he sent along his best organizer, Mr. Paul Bouchard. The gang from St. Henri was there.

I want to say with all reverence and respect that the sisters have a right to vote. Legally they had the right to vote and they received dispensation. When they went to register they allowed their pictures to be taken. There is nothing shameful about that; they were within their rights. But on election day you could not take a picture of any one of the sisters. Rumour had it that thirty costumes were rented and that other ladies were dressed in those nuns' costumes. That is why the umbrellas appeared. On their fingers there were diamond rings, and nuns have no diamond rings. They wore toeless shoes, and nuns do not wear toeless shoes. I am sorry the hon. member for Beauharnois-Laprairie (Mr. Raymond) is not here to hear of the wonderful work that was done. I assure you that that was no credit to Canada.

The trouble is that we think of perversities only when they are about to engulf us at the time of an election. Our educational institu-

tions and our social leaders at no time take the trouble to explain these perversities to the people, to explain this foreign system of politics. If they did so, without any name calling, but in a short and keen analysis, I am positive that we would have nothing to worry about in the future.

I want to say a few words about the budget, a few words perhaps motivated by a selfish outlook. I am new in this house, and I do want to share the glory and the honour and the respect which the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) has drawn upon himself in presenting this budget. It is no ordinary compliment to him, and it is no ordinary compliment to me that I should be sitting on this side of the house when a budget is presented that shows the greatest surplus in the history of Canada since confederation. Our hon. friends opposite bemoan that fact; they probably would not have liked to see so great a surplus, not that I impute any ill will to them or that they do not wish Canada well, but for some other reason peculiarly their own—I would not call it political—they did not wish that we should have a surplus. But the figures are there and, whether you put them head down or toes up, there they are; there they remain in Canadian budgetary history, and no amount of talking will change the figures one iota.

An hon. MEMBER: A war assets surplus.

Mr. HARTT: My hon. friends who have not the responsibility of government, how happy they are! We call it in French, "Il rit jaune"; they do not laugh so happily. I remember the first great war when butter was \$1.10 a pound and sugar fifty cents a pound. That did not happen in the last war, and the laughter of my hon. friends opposite is really the laughter of pain if I diagnose it aright. I would not call it hysterical, because they are gentlemen of weight, some of them overweight. But that is their attitude, their outlook. The Tories have never forgotten the pocket boroughs and the rotten boroughs. The fact remains that there is a surplus of \$350,000,000. It is there and it cannot be contradicted, whether you call it capital gain or the resale of war assets or whatever you call it. There is the surplus, and the indebtedness of the country has been reduced by that amount.

Mr. JACKMAN: It is—

Mr. HARTT: Anything you have to say get up and say it. I do not like shadow-boxing. I see my hon. friend blush.

Mr. JACKMAN: Blushing like a rose.