

*The Budget—Mr. Blair*

Yukon. This is taking place when he has not been busy at home watching himself on his home video set.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order, please. I have to advise the hon. member that his time has expired.

**Some hon. Members:** Carry on.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Does the house give its unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Does the hon. member have the consent of the house?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Some hon. Members:** Carry on.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I promise that I will not be long, and I thank the house for its tolerance. I promise to be amusing, but if hon. gentlemen will read what I have had to say they will find it is very serious indeed.

When the Minister of Transport was not at home watching his home video set, they sent Captain Video around the country. Some people saw him: Now you see him; now you don't. That was their answer to housing: Canadians asked for housing and the government gave them Hellyer.

• (9:10 p.m.)

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Nielsen:** The housing situation was a mess created by the government's policies. They added 25 per cent to the price of a house, with a 12 per cent tax on every item of construction. They raised the interest rate. They priced homes out of the reach of any Canadian in the under \$15,000 income bracket. Then, to make sure those people had nothing left, they brought in the 3 per cent surtax, followed by the 2 per cent surtax with the cut-off at \$120. It is this government which has placed housing out of reach by unrealistic, destructive and heartless interference all along the line.

Mr. Speaker, I thank hon. members for permitting me to finish my speech.

**Mr. D. Gordon Blair (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, in rising to make my first address to this chamber I had intended to make a few remarks about my constituency, particularly as they relate to the budget proposals which are before us. Until I heard  
[Mr. Nielsen.]

my friend the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) I thought perhaps I might be called to order because of straying from the point.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Blair:** Let me immediately assure all hon. members that I do not intend to re-read the order paper to them.

**Mr. Nielsen:** You don't dare.

**Mr. Woolliams:** There is nothing to read.

**Mr. Blair:** My constituency, like many others, was newly created by the recent redistribution. It embraces the western suburbs of Ottawa and extends south to the St. Lawrence river. It includes all of Grenville county, a large part of Carleton county and half of Dundas county. The prevailing political tone in these three historic counties has been rather blue in almost all the years since confederation.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** More than ever now.

**Mr. Blair:** While the voters in this election chose a livelier colour and a new party, I have found they are accustomed to excellent representation in this house by both of my distinguished predecessors, Mrs. Jean Wadds and Hon. Dick Bell. As I embark upon my first term in this house I am conscious that I have a high standard of representation to maintain.

The budget we are discussing is one which in my opinion the Canadian people expected. With far greater insight than many optimistic political leaders, the people generally realized that the rapid expansion of government spending and the continual accumulation of deficits at all levels of government could not continue indefinitely. In the recent election the people resisted the blandishments of those who promised new and costly programs of expenditure. They responded to the appeal of this party, which was for a proper national stocktaking, the stabilization of government spending and was in no sense at all based on the promise that somehow governments could increase their expenditures and good works without cost to the taxpayers.

All of us who were elected to this parliament must have known that it did not face an easy task. Apart from the major decisions it will have to make toward the reshaping of this country for the future, one of its major concerns will be always the stabilization of the nation's finances. Although increased