

country; they only want an election at all costs because they already see themselves in power.

Mr. Speaker, what we of the Social Credit Party of Canada are interested in is not to have someone coming into power, but to get from those who are already in power the results the people are expecting, and this for the whole of the population. Here is what we are interested in too. We agree that the pensions must be increased, and that the eligible age must be lowered to 60.

Mr. Speaker, as for the selective price controls, what is the selection put forward by the New Democratic Party? Nobody knows, nobody cares to explain anything. In my opinion, there are four major areas where we can fight efficiently against inflation.

First of all, we advocate the establishment of a guaranteed annual income for each and all Canadian citizens, irrespective of their social status or their present income; second, a 25 per cent compensated discount on the retail prices; third, a \$200 monthly old age security pension at 60, and we claim—

● (1710)

[English]

Mr. Peters: We will vote for that.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): My hon. friend from Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) says:

[English]

"We will vote for that." But they voted against that when we presented it just a few months ago.

Mr. Peters: Yes, because you were trying to bring down the government.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Now, with nothing at all to gain they are willing to bring down the government. You see how intelligent they are? That is the way it is.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, we ask for interest-free loans to provinces. The government may say this is nonsense. But look at what the budget provides for underdeveloped countries around the world. I would stress to the House that we approve of this measure, far from opposing it. But further, in its budgetary statement, the government seeks from the House authority for the advance commitment of Canada's contribution to the Fourth Replenishment of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, a subsidiary of the World Bank, specializing in the provision of low-interest and interest-free loans to the most needy countries. Mr. Speaker, we believe provinces, as much as any country in the world, have a need for those interest-free loans provided to foreign countries. We demand this and shall keep on fighting for it.

The budget has interesting features, and less interesting ones. My sole purpose was to place the House before its responsibilities. Let not the NDP believe it will preserve its identity by voting with the Progressive Conservatives, and vice versa.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we hope for is a positive approach from members, in order that they may give the Canadian

The Budget—Mr. Trudeau

people what it strives for, namely security with personal freedom.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I rise at a time when it can truly be said that a threat of a general election is hanging over this House. If I was not afraid to arouse the suspicions of the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) about my readings, I would say that a ghost haunts Parliament, the ghost of an election.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to present some arguments to the House to show not only the hon. members opposite but also the whole Canadian people that the time they have chosen to provoke the dissolution of this 29th Parliament is particularly inappropriate and truly shows their complete irresponsibility.

What has brought this about, Mr. Speaker? What has brought about this threat of a general election which has been hanging over the House, not only for a few weeks but practically since the beginning of this Parliament? What has brought about this situation of a Parliament of which it might be said that it was born to be short-lived, if we remember the speeches that the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) was making repeatedly at the beginning of 1973. Time and time again, he stated that the government was going to fall, that it would be for the following week. When the following week came, he made other speeches to say that it would be for the week after. And the week after, it was supposed to be for the week after that. He was always busy preparing our epitaph. I think that if he had poetic talents in addition to his other talents, he would have prepared our epitaph 18 months ago: "They are here today and gone tomorrow."

In January 1973, it was said that the government would fall on the occasion of the Speech from the Throne. And I am not speaking only of the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe. I must say that this was the general attitude, not only among the hon. members opposite, but also among many of the people who watch us from above your head, Mr. Chairman. The Speech from the Throne was supposed to be the crucial moment.

After the Speech from the Throne, it was supposed to be on supply days. There were some at the end of January, there were others in March. Something was really going to happen, Mr. Speaker, Parliament was through.

Unfortunately those gloomy predictions did not materialize and then the budget became the final and cut-throat moment. The budget which the government was to introduce would be the end of this 29th Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, Parliament survived that budget and afterwards, we were to be defeated on corporate taxes. It was really useless then to try to obtain the support of the New Democratic Party. The Progressive Conservatives and the New Democrats were going to defeat the government on corporate taxes.

I do not know what happened at the Conservative caucus, but they decided that it was not yet the time to defeat the government. The threat was hanging over us, but it was not the proper time. Then there were all the days for the consideration of the estimates. In June last year, on the resolution on Viet Nam introduced by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) we