

government had just discovered a Canadian city called Banff, that the weather was nice and that they were wandering through the city. I think that that government sat more often in Banff than here. This can certainly delay a budget!

The result of all this was that when the famous budget of which everyone is aware was introduced by the then minister of finance, this budget was so far removed from what Canadians thought the budget of the government should be that it was the last nail in the coffin that the Progressive Conservatives had built for themselves. If at least this budget had been introduced in the first three or four months in office of that government, then we would not have had to wait until February 18 for that government to be replaced by one more able to govern this country. In addition, the budget that the members opposite have been demanding for so long would probably have been introduced before now.

However, after February 18, that important date when Canadians were finally able to say to Pierre Trudeau, "you are the one we find the best," the new government had to rebuild the whole machine and discuss the situation with public servants who were completely lost because they had just gone through a terrible time with many people who had just come into power in May telling them, "black goes right, white goes left," and so on, and because those who had tried in seven months to change major policies to give to the country a new direction which no one understood and did not know exactly where they were going. Everything had to be replaced, all these people had to be told to sit down and to work peacefully as in the past without starting a war with anyone, especially not with our neighbours, nor with those who are a bit farther from us, and they had to be asked to get themselves into the state of mind that they were in before, under the Trudeau administration.

I can assure you that it is quite a handicap to follow such a government and to introduce a budget in the following months. This is a major handicap that we must overcome, and the work is enormous. We have had to do everything over very quickly, and we had to do it so completely over because the former government nearly had time to destroy everything in such a short while.

● (1640)

Other than that there is one thing I want to point out. I can tell hon. members opposite even before a budget is introduced in the House that the next budget will help the middle class, the working class and the underprivileged class in Canada which was not the case of theirs. You know what happens when you do that, you have to borrow several billions of dollars because times are difficult. The man in the street understands that problem very well. It is beyond me that you should have missed that.

How I remember the millions of dollars that were supposed to go into the coffers of the companies, the multinational oil

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companies, with that famous budget. You would have wanted us to draft the same budget again and have it endorsed by the people of Canada. That would have been quite simply shameful. The only thing you have to do now to try and right the wrong and the damage you did to this country by delaying the process of legislation for a period of seven months during which the House did not sit is to stop filibustering the borrowing authority this government is asking for in its own right. It has that borrowing authority as the elected government of the people of Canada, and all you are doing now is delaying it. That delay, as you know full well, is unjustifiable.

For my part, as I said in this place yesterday, I come from an area where the presence of the Government of Canada is essential and is being felt at various levels because of the economic problems we are now facing. We know full well that the Government of Canada spends more money in my area than it gets out of it in revenues. We are aware of that. We also know one thing, and it is that this situation will not last forever, it is only temporary. When will we get out of it? I am not a soothsayer, I cannot tell you, but we will get out of it. All the premises are there, and all the work that has been done in recent years tends to lead to that result. But in the meantime we cannot conceive that you would want to have a single generation pay for all the problems we are now experiencing. That is why the Government of Canada is borrowing. This is capitalization. When it is paid off, it will bring dividends. We are spending today to meet the needs of the underprivileged. One day the government will have enough revenue to look after those needs, as it has already been the case. It is a regular cycle.

Therefore, the people in my area know quite well and are proud of the fact that the authorities of this country have taken the necessary decisions which have brought investments worth millions of dollars in this fine country called Canada and have made sure that not only one generation or only one part of the population is experiencing difficulties. You know that during the last election campaign the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau) said a few words that we have not forgotten. He said: "The Liberal Party of Canada does not make promises but stands for principles." Those are the principles which I am now stating, principles of justice and equity for the distribution of wealth. A while ago I heard my colleague from Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin) who referred to the position taken by various provinces in the constitutional negotiations. Once again, the same spirit should be revised.

What I find most unfortunate—and I do not know whether it is a false impression—is that my colleagues opposite seem to have forgotten those principles. They seem to have forgotten them, because they are trying to prevent the Canadian government from borrowing or they are delaying the borrowing process of the Canadian government. They want to prevent the government from borrowing. This government was democrati-