

*The Budget—Mr. Benidickson*

was only \$65 million involved this fiscal year in so far normal accounts were concerned in a budget which had all this advance publicity as an expansionist budget. This means that on budget night any dynamic or expansionist programs could not be announced because the real truth is that everything that was financially binding upon the minister, and perhaps scaring to the minister, had been settled last autumn when the minister, as chairman of treasury board, approved the spending programs of his colleagues. As I have suggested, these are not at all, as the minister said in his introductory remarks, related to the appropriate needs on budget night of June 20, 1961.

The result is the treasury convinced everybody that it was bare and broke. The treasury was conscripted long ago by the ministers for political expediency rather than economic requirements. Therefore, at a time when we were led to believe we would receive some real economic guidance, something dynamic—which I believe is a favourite word of the Minister of Finance—the finance minister was helpless.

The press did not give that impression. They get advance copies of the minister's budget words. They have a closed conference on budget day and they have to read a long speech. The word goes out, "Canada has a cash deficit of \$1 billion" and the impression given is that in the main it involves new decisions for dynamic leadership decided upon by the minister just prior to budget night. This is not the fact. There are other obligations, which the minister has not disclosed. These involve taking at long last some leadership in the exchange control field.

We even had an investigation in parliament recently. We had a most useful one undertaken by the Senate manpower and employment committee. There is a large Liberal majority in the Senate itself, but in the committee there was a majority of supporters of the Conservative government. However, that was of no consequence; the report was unanimous. This committee did a great job over two sessions. It was one of the most useful committees I have known and I compliment those who took this matter so seriously. It was a marvellous thing that so many worthy people and organizations from across the country appeared before that committee to give their counsel in this most serious matter. I refer, of course, to the problem of the great number of unemployed in this country today.

The result is that notwithstanding this most recent parliamentary report, and despite the minister's budget oratory—I say we have had there only the dynamism of the windmill, when one reads the 50 or more pages

[Mr. Benidickson.]

of his speech which result in very little financially or socially—there was nothing dynamic in the minister's announcements budget night. We might have expected something dynamic in regard to education. I am sure the minister has seen and is familiar with the report of the Senate committee on this question, but I think the house and the country should be made familiar with what the Senate committee thought was of prime importance after its extensive deliberations.

I refer to the section of the Senate committee report dealing with education and the fact that without retraining and education those still in school, and those who have left school, are in their judgment likely to find it very difficult, even in good times, to earn enough money to maintain the standard of living this country wants to see them maintain. I quote from page 8 of the Senate report:

This leads to a consideration of the whole question of education and training in Canada. Nothing—

I emphasize these words.

Nothing has impressed the committee more than the very heavy incidence of unemployment among young people, the unskilled, and the inadequately educated. This has been brought out repeatedly, both by the committee's own research staff and by other witnesses. Every study that has been made reveals that in the economy of today the emphasis is increasingly on skill and training, and every forecast that has been prepared indicates clearly that this trend will continue in the years ahead. The opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled workers are becoming more and more limited as time passes.

This situation must be viewed with a sense of urgency. Without any question we must devote a much larger proportion of our resources to education and training of all kinds—

If the minister was anxious to follow that recommendation it seems he was unfortunately without resources. It had been decided months ago what was to be done. The Senate manpower committee report says we must devote more resources to education and training.

The Senate committee conclude this portion of the report by saying we must begin now.

The minister may say we had such a program this session in connection with vocational training. The Senate manpower committee were well aware of that, but in their view it was quite inadequate to meet the very important problem with which they were dealing. What is this government doing for the young person? These young people are the ones who in large measure cannot enter the labour market in an initial way and find a job when times are as tough as they have been and continue to be.

All the government is offering our young people in this budget is this. "You will assume,