

The Budget—Mr. Crosbie

With respect to flood relief I turned over a cheque for \$1.5 million in connection with the Exploits River flood damage. In regard to the Port aux Basques water supply, there was a promise made by the Liberals which was never carried out. We allocated \$8.5 million for the Port aux Basques water supply. God, if I had the time to elaborate, Hon. Members would just fall over. They do not realize what we are getting away with.

There is a convention centre in the City of St. John's to which the federal Government contributed \$1.7 million. There was some \$93 million for the Goose Bay airport, a 10-year program of improvements there. We are going to—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Some Hon. Members: More, more!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there questions or comments? The Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier).

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see the Minister has finally put his speech out of its misery. I am also happy to note that the Government has regained its confidence in the press in that the Minister quoted from an article written by Jeffrey Simpson from *The Globe and Mail* of March 5, 1986. I note that the Government now shows its satisfaction with the way the press reports its propaganda. I would like to ask the Minister this. Has he had lunch recently with anyone from the press so that he now has them on his side spreading the propaganda of his own Party?

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, we do not express either satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the press.

Mr. Gauthier: You sure as hell did!

Mr. Crosbie: The press are there and we live with the press. Of course, some members of the press are even more accurate and truthful than other members of the press. When we see a national columnist who is not known to be partisan come to the conclusion that the response to the Budget by the Liberal Party is "depressing evidence that hypocrisy and political opportunism are thriving on the opposition benches" what can we do but note it and put in on the public record?

I am glad the hon. gentleman asked me the question since I am a bit angry with the press who did not make sufficient of the North Warning System. Of course, we are now placing North Warning Stations in Labrador. Would Hon. Members like to know what will be spent in Labrador with respect to two long-range radar stations at Sagluc and Cartwright and five short-range radar stations? In excess of \$120 million. The press failed to report that I had arranged matters so that the consulting engineers doing this work are from Newfoundland. We are now busy ensuring that when the tenders are called they will be called in amounts which are not too large for Atlantic Canada and Quebec companies to handle. The press did not report on that. So this is a little failure of the press

which I am glad the hon. gentleman gave me a chance to point out.

In addition, when we were in St. John's last week, the Minister responsible for housing announced a new federal-provincial global agreement in social housing with Newfoundland. The press neglected to give that the attention it should have been given. Some \$6.6 million will be allocated for the Agnes Pratt Senior Citizens Home in the district of St. John's West which I have the honour to represent.

Mr. Gauthier: I didn't ask that, John. We are not interested.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is not interested. They are interested in Newfoundland. Some 150 chronic care beds will be implemented at the Agnes Pratt Home and the Golden Heights Home in Bonavista in the district of my friend, the Hon. Member for Bonavista-Trinity-Conception, Captain Morrissey Johnson, that seal captain of international renown.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: The press should be criticized occasionally. Some \$25 million will be spent under this new social housing agreement in Newfoundland for those who cannot afford to do it all themselves. Some 2,400 new households will be created in 1986. We are extending the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program throughout every nook and cranny of the province.

Mr. Gauthier: Don't get wound up, you're just supposed to answer one question.

Mr. Crosbie: That is being done because of the new Government in Ottawa and the Government in St. John's, and because of yours truly who has fought so hard. They will know down there when they receive their RRAP assistance who is responsible.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Essex-Windsor (Mr. Langdon) on a question.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, one hesitates to give the Minister a chance to get wound up again. However, I cannot resist asking a few questions of him.

Mr. Gauthier: You won't get any answers!

Mr. Langdon: I would like to ask a few questions with respect to his superb oratory. However, the facts were not quite so superb, although the oratory was not bad.

With respect to his reference to the program for older workers, might it not have been fair to mention that there is a reduction in the amount of money to be provided in the Budget for older workers displaced and facing readjustment? Also, might it not have been honest when talking about the Canadian Jobs Strategy to mention that the Budget reduces the funds to the Jobs Strategy program and does not increase it? Might it not have been more accurate to have noted that the \$50 rebate of which the Minister spoke so proudly is just to make