

The Budget—Mr. Fox

by, the number of Canadians and technological innovations increase. New plants incorporate these technological advances which demand more and more investments and less and less labour.

It is time for us to begin to think seriously about benefits and other consequences of this post-industrial era.

Will our present work ethic be able to solve these problems? Should our society not get prepared at once for such changes? We must try without delay to find answers to those questions.

To palliate these problems forthwith, the government introduces a highly expansionary and innovating budget, a student employment program, the Local Initiatives Program and winter works projects. All these programs are excellent, though I suggest that the Local Initiatives Program could be improved. In my view, its criteria should be altered in order to bring more incentive to municipalities. We are all aware of financial problems encountered by municipalities. I suggest that we might take advantage of such a program to try to bring along the decentralization of decision making process which might be very valuable.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want, in my first statement in this House, to let aside the fact that at the beginning of 1975, Mirabel, the new Montreal international airport, located in the riding of Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes, will welcome its first passengers. Its effects have been felt since 1969 in the riding of Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes.

The airport area being designated as a "special area", many projects have been achieved which are designed to improve the infrastructure of this riding.

For the expropriated people the airport is not a future development but a reality of every day and it has been so since the expropriation plans were tabled in 1969.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Parliament must not forget in his concern to see this country move ahead that men and women, even whole families, have and still have to move to make room to that progress. Houses, land held by the same families from time immemorial, neighbourhood relations dating to the beginning of our history are wiped out by bulldozers and concrete runways.

The federal government has expropriated over 3,000 owners many of whom have now become government tenants.

These people who used to be owners are now in daily contact with federal government officials responsible for the management of the expropriated territory.

And I say to all those officials, Mr. Speaker, that they must remember that they are essentially at the service of the public and that it is their main *raison d'être*.

Mr. Speaker, Ste. Scholastique, now Mirabel, is not a land concession for the administration of a few civil servants; Ste. Scholastique is people, men, women, children who were upset in their daily life and who have a right to be treated with all the dignity that their pride as Canadians calls for.

In addition to a fair expropriation allowance, these people want clear and specific information inasmuch as it is possible on what their territory is to become.

[Mr. Fox.]

I know, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Transport (M. Marchand) is very concerned about those problems. Last week he met in his office with the Ste. Scholastique community information and animation committee and the citizen help committee. In the light of those meetings I am confident that some of the problems will soon be solved.

• (1640)

[English]

In conclusion let me reiterate my fundamental belief in people-oriented government. "Policies for people" is a motto to which I wholeheartedly subscribe. It is a motto which ensures our responsiveness to the aspirations of the Canadian people whom we have the honour to represent in this parliament.

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to represent the historic eastern Ontario riding of Leeds, famous for its dairy farming and its cheddar cheese, known for its tourist resorts and its fishing, yet at the same time being a beehive of bustling industrial activity. This partly rural, partly urban riding was represented in this House for two decades by the Hon. Hugh Stewart, a member of the Bennett government. The Hon. George P. Graham from Brockville served with distinction in the governments of Laurier and King, and his descendants play an active part in the Leeds of today. And naturally I cannot help but recall another Leeds man, a great grandfather of mine, William H. Comstock, who was elected to this House on April 20, 1899. A further distinguished son of Leeds I will mention later in my remarks for some very special reasons.

I was a member of the party opposite until January 15 last year, and like many others across the country I left it when it became obvious that its policies, or perhaps I should say lack of policies, were destroying this nation. Almost from the beginning, this government ceased to be genuinely interested in people and their problems. Everything was subjugated to the new image. Everything became a matter of slogans. Blinded by a false euphoria, this country was swept down a road toward disaster in the greatest con game ever perpetrated on the Canadian people. Our major problems went unsolved and grew steadily worse. In most cases they were not even tackled. Unemployment has stalked the land in ever-increasing proportions since this government took office. A couple of years ago, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) pronounced inflation dead and since then it has been the most active dead body in the history of Canada. Everything looked so easy through those rose coloured glasses held before our eyes in 1968. But the dream has been shattered. We still have our problems. It takes more than an image to run a country.

What about those great slogans, participatory democracy and the just society? Participatory democracy turned out to mean the privilege of plugging in for orders from above. There has been less and less participation in the democratic process of government by the people of this country, and that has been accompanied by a down-grading of parliament as well as an attempt by the Prime Minister's office to create government. The just society turned out to be a society of gross economic mismanagement and social injustice.