

The Budget—Mr. Walter Smith

basic pillars of our federal system. If it is our belief that the unity of Canada is essential, as it is mine, then no party leader can claim the luxury of opting out when situations demand standing up and speaking out for principle.

There are many issues which will involve us in the course of this session, but I repeat that none is so important as my belief that this Canada is a favoured place and that it is so because persons in every part of the country are able to seek fulfilment through the help and understanding of their fellow Canadians.

The opposition are constantly criticizing the high percentage of unemployed. However, in the five-year period 1965-70 more than one million jobs were created. This figure exceeds the total number of new jobs created in Belgium, Germany, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom combined. The total population of these seven countries, 12 times as great as Canada's, created fewer jobs than did Canada in the same period. In Canada this momentum is continuing. In 1971 more than 200,000 new jobs were created. It was this government that created the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and has spent millions in the past three years creating new jobs in regions of Canada in greatest need.

[Translation]

In the riding of Saint-Jean, several industries have benefited by federal grants for building new plants and for expanding and modernizing others.

The constituency was proclaimed a designated zone in 1970. Several industries are therefore eligible for a maximum grant of 10 per cent of cost, up to \$2,000 for each new job created.

• (1720)

[English]

Many jobs have been created in my riding, thanks to the Local Initiatives Program which has been well received by many. Unfortunately, some of the projects submitted were not accepted. Over a million dollars have been allotted to date under this program, and my thanks go to the officials of the manpower department who approved constructive projects. The local manpower office in Saint-Jean, and others have been very helpful in preparing and suggesting projects to be created—projects to correspond with the local needs in each section of city or country. Many new projects are being submitted at the present time under another program called Opportunities for Youth. This had much success last year, its first year of experience. Students welcome such initiatives and it is hoped that many worth-while projects will be accepted for this coming summer, permitting students to earn enough money to continue their studies next fall.

Agriculture is very important in the country, and the dairy industry is perhaps the industry which occupies most of our farm people. Only two years ago this industry was not too healthy, but thanks to the dairy commission and the federal-provincial marketing plan which was brought about and accepted by the dairy producers, today there is nothing but praise for the government's guidance in the production and marketing of dairy products. The price of butter, milk, cheese and milk powder has

[Mr. Smith (Saint-Jean).]

increased in the past years. My congratulations extend to the industry for their co-operation and good understanding.

Market gardeners occupy an important sector of the country, especially in the rich, black soil where several thousand acres are sown to potatoes, carrots, turnips, onions and many other small vegetables every year. Nevertheless, more protection should be given to producers of green vegetables in full season by better control of imports from the United States. The wet season this year really set the farmers back, and although they are receiving a \$400 grant, it is in many cases too little. I have just noticed that I am running out of time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I thank the hon. member for his co-operation.

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour for me to rise today to make my first speech in the House of Commons. I would like to extend to you, Mr. Speaker, and to Mr. Deputy Speaker the best wishes of the people of Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton, and to add to them my congratulations on your election and appointment to these high offices.

I shall not dwell at length on any topic other than the budget, as time is short. First, I would like to say that I wonder whether this is a good budget. I would not like to say that the whole budget is bad, for indeed the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) and the Liberal-NDP coalition have taken four of the major points in this budget directly from the Progressive Conservative party platform made public in the autumn of 1972. This is a compliment, of course, to the Progressive Conservative party and it adds a great deal of credibility to our party as being the party of the future, the party which does the thinking.

The fact that the Liberal party did not have any policy shows they are bankrupt of ideas and unable to conceive of intelligent, economic planning. One of the four major planks which were taken had to do with a decrease in personal income tax. During the last election the Progressive Conservatives called for a decrease of at least 7 per cent. The Minister of Finance intimated during that campaign that this was not being responsible. However, on budget night we saw a reduction of 5 per cent.

During the election campaign, part of the Conservative party platform for 1972 was a call for an increase in old age pensions. At that time this was pooh-poohed as not being responsible. The Liberals said they had given the old people an increase to cover the cost of living in the spring of 1972. On budget night the old age pension went up by the sum of \$13, to \$100 a month.

The Progressive Conservative party during the election campaign called for the exemption of the family farm from capital gains tax when it was passing from father to son. This was casually brushed aside by the governing party as a phony issue. On budget night, the minister announced that the exemption would stand and that no longer would the family farm be taxed as a capital gain when it passed from father to son.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) in May, 1972, put forward the constant-dollar theory in relation to taxation. This policy became a major plank in the plat-