

The Budget—Mr. Clermont

In the early stage of the campaign, our opponents asserted that the work would start before election day, but since it had not started late in the campaign, they changed their minds and said it would be undertaken in the fall of 1960. A Mont Laurier newspaper which supported the Conservative candidate, went so far as to say how high the proposed tower would be.

In reply to a question of mine, the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Nowlan) stated in this house on January 18 that he was not even sure that a tower or satellite station would be built in 1961.

I hope that the minister will see that those promises made and not kept in 1960 will be carried out at least in 1961.

The people of Labelle, as well as throughout Canada, no longer believe the promises of the Conservatives. That is why the Conservatives suffered an overwhelming defeat in my riding.

In order to justify that defeat, the Conservatives made use of the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys and made him suggest that it was due to the intervention of the Quebec Liberal party. That is false.

Mr. Denis: But Mr. Jean Marie Beriault was there, indeed.

Mr. Clermont: Our friends opposite are trying to blame their bad administration on the Liberals, accusing them of leaving behind a sorry legacy.

They knew in 1957 and 1958, just as they do today that they would necessarily inherit this famous legacy they so often speak about if they ever acceded to power.

They should have then told the population that because of that legacy they would not be able to administer the affairs of the country as well as they would have liked to. They would have been more honest with the people if they had done so. But instead they said: "Everything is going wrong; vote for us and all will be right. No one will suffer".

Three years later the number of unemployed has doubled. What is their answer: "Blame it on the legacy".

Bankruptcies are increasing. Blame the legacy. The cost of living is rising. The legacy, again. Plants are folding up or are cutting down production. Once more, it is the legacy.

What have they done with this legacy? They have increased or doubled the liabilities and wasted the assets.

The Liberals had left them as a liability 197,000 unemployed. They have almost trebled this liability.

The Liberals had left them heirs to \$900,000,000 of assets in the unemployment insurance fund. By next May, they will have reduced those assets to less than \$100 million.

The Liberals had left them millions accumulated in successive annual surpluses. They succeeded in converting those assets into tremendous deficits.

Was the cost of living relatively high before? They have substantially increased this liability.

Interest rates which were normal under the Liberals have become prohibitive in the last three years.

Such uneasiness as existed in certain industries like the textiles, footwear and other industries has considerably increased.

The national debt is larger, and so are naturally, the interests we have to pay.

In this supplementary or baby budget, which is being discussed today, I find nothing which might, in the immediate future, help the farming, lumbering and tourist industries which are of special interest to the people of my riding; and I am sure that, in the other areas of the country, the budget was not found more satisfactory.

In proof of this, since I am not asking any one to take my word for it—I will quote newspaper opinions.

Contrary to the claims of the Associate Minister of National Defence (Mr. Sevigny), as evidenced in *Hansard* for January 24, 1961, page 1362, I quote:

That budget, so carefully prepared was well received generally across the country, and the opinion of our fellow citizens was reflected in the many editorials we have read both in our daily newspapers and our weeklies and which, for the most part, commended the Minister of Finance.

English language newspapers reply:

(Text):

The *Calgary Herald*, December 21, 1960, states:

Its effects are to be long term, not immediate.

The *Montreal Star*, December 21, 1960, says:

To the average person's reaction a disappointment—so was corporation.

The *Globe and Mail* of December 22, 1960, stated:

—budget which itself is widely described as disappointing—

The *Toronto Star* of December 21, 1960, contains the following:

Budget ignores unemployed.