

*The Budget—Mr. Patterson*

N. Whalen, of the firm Martin, Whalen and Hennebury, paid as of July 29	— \$27,036.16
Committed	— \$31,500.00
Total	— \$58,536.16

Part (d) Estimated total legal fees: budget of \$100,000.

Part (e) Contract completion date is December 1, 1980, for exterior shell of all dwelling units and July 31, 1981, for the complete work. The contractor is currently ahead of schedule and substantial completion of all works is expected by the end of October, 1980.

[English]

**Mr. Colletette:** I ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

**Madam Speaker:** Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### THE BUDGET

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed, from Wednesday, November 5, 1980, consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East):** Madam Speaker, when six o'clock was called last evening, I was drawing a brief verbal picture of the contrast between the conditions which led up to the celebrations on our one hundredth anniversary, the attitude of the people at that time, and the attitude and feelings of the nation at present. Perhaps I can enlarge on that comparison and point out the reasons for this change of attitude on the part of the people.

● (1740)

A reference to the first two paragraphs of the statement of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) given in the House on October 28 might provide some relevant information. The first paragraph reads as follows:

It is a budget which sets new directions for the economy—directions which will ensure both energy security and economic security for Canadians in the years ahead.

The second paragraph reads:

—we have inherited many difficulties from the decade of the 70s.

I call the attention of the House to those statements because a great deal of the blame for the deterioration of economic conditions and a deterioration in the feelings and expectations

of the people lies directly at the feet of the present government. My assumption or declaration is substantiated in those two paragraphs. The first paragraph points out new directions, which implies that the directions of the past have been inadequate and have not accomplished anything as far as the country is concerned. The second paragraph indicates that we have inherited many difficulties from the decade of the seventies. The first nine years of that decade were under the guidance and control of the Liberal government. Therefore, as far as this is concerned, the blame lies on their doorstep as well.

One big problem in the Canadian political system is the widespread cynicism with which the public views politicians, political parties and elections. When the Liberals were in opposition last year, they capitalized on that cynicism. Through lack of the full truth, sometimes through untruths and sometimes through deception, they misrepresented the policies of the Conservative government and encouraged the public to believe they were the defenders of integrity, in the hopes of being re-elected. Part of the country re-elected the Liberals, and now, they are in office, we find just how much integrity the government possesses. I suggest that it is practically nil.

If a government had set out deliberately to promote cynicism in the public of Canada, it could not have done a better job than the Minister of Finance did in introducing his budget last week. The government promised to keep oil prices down, and it is raising prices higher than those projected in the Conservative budget. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) promised to protect the needy against inevitable energy price increases, and the budget does nothing for them. The Liberals promised fiscal responsibility, and the budget shows that they are planning a 15.2 per cent increase in government spending. The Prime Minister crossed back and forth across the country decrying the 18 cents per gallon excise tax of the Conservative party. In one breath the Minister of Finance announced there would be no excise tax, and in the next he slapped on what he called a Canadian ownership charge which could easily be 30 cents per gallon next year. Depending upon what oil company Petro-Canada decides to buy, it could be 60 cents per gallon or \$1. Who knows what the limit will be?

The minister announced in one paragraph that the government had abandoned the export tax on natural gas, and in the next he announced an export tax on natural gas. How cynical can a person be. He said, "We have abandoned our decision to impose an excise tax on the export of gas", and then he turned around and said, "Yes, we have done that, but we have decided to put the tax on foreign and Canadian purchasers". Instead of abandoning it, he doubled its effect by making it applicable not only to the users abroad but to Canadians. How magnificently generous the minister is. I say this with some degree of skepticism and perhaps worse than that.

The Prime Minister promised he would work at bringing down the budgetary deficit, yet the budget increases the deficit by \$3.6 billion this year. I will come back to some of these items in a few moments, but first I want to say a few words