

restored as a bastion of freedom and the bulwark of opportunity for the humblest and the poorest of our people. The arrogance which is embodied in the attitude "You never had it better" must be relegated from the administration of the affairs of this country. Prior to 1957 this country was subjected to that type of arrogance, an arrogance marked by conceit and by a cavalier attitude toward the problems which confronted our people in their daily lives.

The minister referred to unemployment. Canadians of that day did not enjoy the prospect of unemployment. Worse than that, they did not enjoy the prospect of facing the problems associated with unemployment and automation without the training which should have been given in the period when hon. gentlemen opposite were in power for 22 years. The government of that day failed, and failed dismally, to meet that problem, but when we came into office one of the actions taken under the direction of our minister of labour, the present hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr), was to provide a program for building trade schools throughout the country. I believe over 287 trade schools were built in Canada.

That is the evidence, Mr. Speaker, of the neglect of the former administration, a legacy which was handed to us in 1957 and 1958 and which we met by doing something constructive in the years we were in office. I recall those days so well, particularly the response of the people in the great grain growing area from which I have been sent here. The people in my area did not like the prospect of the privation associated with empty pocketbooks and unpaid bills with at the same time overflowing grain bins. They did not like the attitude of the department of which the present Minister of Finance was then deputy minister. In short, they did not like the attitude "If you want our grain, then come and get it".

In the sessions which followed in 1957 and 1958 the foundations were laid for the expansion and development which began in 1961, and I am most happy, sir, to congratulate the Minister of Finance on his assertion that this expansion has continued and still persists despite the mistakes that have been perpetrated during the past three years.

The Minister of Finance is such a modest man. In 1962 his modesty was most remarkable. At that time he believed he had the answers. I have before me one of the answers he gave to the people of Canada. In fact, the

The Budget—Mr. Nasserden

Liberals inserted it in one of their pamphlets during the 1962 election campaign entitled "What Is Happening Now?" It reads as follows:

There has been some economic recovery since the spring of 1961. Liberal spokesmen predicted it early in 1961. We expect it to continue through most of 1962. It is a normal movement in the business cycle; and as such, it is a welcome change. With this government's policies, however, it has a predictable end in another slow-down.

We have had this sort of recovery before. In 1959 Canada made better progress than in other years of Tory government. Our production then increased by 3 per cent. That was better than the 1 per cent of 1958. Unemployment was less severe. But it was still serious. And in 1960 it became much worse again.

Then in red letters to emphasize the position of the minister, who was then one of the chief critics of the government of the day, the following statement was made:

This year is like 1959. It provides some improvement, but nowhere near enough. And there are many indications that the improvement will not continue long. It is only a small offset to the economic slow-down of the Tory years.

Mr. Sharp: Then there was a change of government.

Mr. Nasserden: In the minister's Budget and in almost every publication from the Bank of Canada the confession has been made that this expansion which was begun in 1961 has increased and carried forward to an extent unknown in the history of our nation.

• (5:30 p.m.)

Mr. Sharp: As a result of government policies.

Mr. Nasserden: As a result of the foundations that were laid in 1957 and 1958.

Mr. Sharp: Why not go back to 1914?

Mr. Nasserden: It is very interesting, sir, to realize that the slow-down of those years was such that it has taken all these three years for a minister of the Crown in this the greatest land of opportunity, the land of raw materials and great resources, this land of limited population, to plead with business to slow down and to cut back on construction, all in the name of the inflation that was caused by the 11 per cent sales tax put into effect by this government. You know, sir, the minister was one of the architects of the fraud perpetrated in 1962 by the then opposition of that day. I need not remind anyone here nor in the country how well the hon.