

*The Budget—Mr. Hees*

This would enable Canadian businessmen to calculate in advance how much their labour costs would be reduced on any additional business which the tax rebate would make it possible for them to undertake. At present, many orders are out of the reach of Canadian producers, both in Canada and in the export market, because of low prices quoted by foreign competition. Lower labour costs would put some of this business, as a matter of fact I believe quite a lot of it, within their reach, and orders obtained in this way would be a net gain for employment in Canada.

• (1540)

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, in this way the government would receive a 100 per cent return for every dollar that it spends to increase employment, instead of the expensive, give-away program which the minister has presented to the House and which the government intends to push through parliament. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the businessmen of this country would respond very well indeed to the incentive program which I have presented. I have talked it over with a great many businessmen. They tell me that it would be exactly the kind of program that all businessmen would like.

They tell me that this incentive program means the possibility of lowering labour costs, so that they could go after business that is out of their hands today. By achieving lower labour costs through a direct rebate given to them by the government, which they know will come to them at the end of the year, in direct proportion to their increase in employment, they will be able to go out after new business with prices which are competitive, get business for Canada and produce the jobs that are not available to Canadians today.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hees:** So, Mr. Speaker, through you I say to the minister and to the government, forget about your candy bars and your cosmetics. Bring forth plans that will deal with the basic problems facing the economy today. Through you I also say to them that failure to do so will result in their making that short trip across the aisle to sit on your left, Mr. Speaker, sometime later in June.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, I see that I have a minute and a half left, and I would like to clear up a slight misunderstanding that occurred in the House a few weeks ago. After I spoke in the throne speech debate I was followed by the Minister of Finance who stated the belief that, during the Grey Cup game of 1938, which the Argonauts happened to win by defeating Winnipeg 30 to 7, I had sat on the bench. Mr. Speaker, I want to tell this young upstart of a minister that in those days we played 60 minutes of football, and I happened to play 60 minutes in that game. I am glad to have the opportunity to correct that, Mr. Speaker.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Harding).

[Mr. Hees.]

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** On a matter of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I want formally to withdraw—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member for Kootenay West as the Minister of Finance seeks the floor on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the hon. gentleman's statement I want formally to withdraw the remark which I made in the throne speech debate, and to say to him that I recognize that in those days he was a 60 minute player, able to go both ways, but I think that in current circumstances he is better on defence.

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, may I first congratulate the Minister of Science and Technology (Mrs. Sauvé), who represents the riding of Ahuntic, on her maiden speech. I think she has made an excellent start in the House of Commons, and I trust that in the months to come we will hear more from her.

I have listened with interest to the budget debate over the last three sitting days. Some constructive criticism has been offered, and many good suggestions have been made by speakers representing all parties. I feel that these suggestions should be carefully examined by the government, which might be able to incorporate some of them into future budgets or into the administrative policies of the various departments concerned. Our nation is in deep economic trouble, and it is obvious that the government is in need of guidance, both devine and otherwise.

There has been a great deal of criticism of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) for bringing in a budget which contains a number of NDP and Conservative measures which were advanced during the election campaign some four months ago. There is absolutely no doubt that the present Liberal government has done a complete about-face on the financial policies which it was advocating over the past three or four years. Its tight money policy and the restrictive measures ensuing from that policy have resulted in tremendously high and unacceptable unemployment rates in Canada. This budget is a reversal of the government's past tight money policy, but one of the main criticisms of the budget is that it is not sufficiently expansionary to meet the crisis in unemployment which is facing us.

I am not going to be critical of the minister for incorporating a large number of NDP and Conservative ideas in his budget. I only regret that this action was not taken several budgets ago, and then perhaps had that been so, we might have the unemployment rate at manageable proportions by this time. I see nothing wrong with a democratic and responsible government changing its plan, or accepting ideas advanced by other groups. The adoption of these ideas might show up the fallacies of its past policies, but will result in better government, and in a much better deal for the taxpayers of the country. And that is what government should be all about. Too many governments fail because they try to stick too closely to preconceived ideas in a policy and a program which are often faulty. I do not believe in the old philosophy that majority governments have always used in this country, to the effect that suggestions from opposition groups must seldom be accepted because that is apparently a sign of