

*The Budget—Mr. A. Lambert*

plant in Montmagny. The situation is becoming alarming, Mr. Speaker. What are we waiting in order to protect our essential industries?

Mr. Speaker, I have listened to and read the speeches of the government members, and they seem happy with the budget introduced by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson). They say, with a sigh of relief: Fortunately, the government did not announce any new tax or any tax increase.

They forget, however, the temporary 3 per cent income tax levied by the government and still in force this year, which means that it is going to be permanent. This is for the government a new and not too embarrassing method of levying taxes. So much the worse for the taxpayer who will have to pay the bill.

A temporary 2 per cent income tax was also levied last year. It has been carried over in this year's budget and will therefore become permanent. It is called the social development tax. Still, during the last fiscal year, it has yielded the tidy sum of \$447 million to the government.

The purpose of the government in levying this social development tax was to establish the just society promised by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and described in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the first session of the 28th parliament.

Through that 2 per cent tax, the people pay cash for social development they do not get, and they will have to pay a second time when the government decides to have them benefit from it, perhaps then by way of a C.O.D. That is a modern way for the government to increase its revenue in an underhand manner without suffering the unpopularity linked with new taxes. It is furthermore a marvelous opportunity to start an argument between the government of the province of Quebec and that of Ottawa—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired. Without the unanimous consent of the House, the hon. member cannot continue his remarks.

Is it the pleasure of the House to have the hon. member for Bellechasse continue his remarks?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[*English*]

**Mr. Bell:** Mr. Speaker, we are trying to push through some extra speakers. I think the

hon. member should be permitted to finish his speech with a sentence or two.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Very well. The hon. member for Bellechasse.

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the House for such understanding and I shall not impose upon its good will.

I was saying that the social development tax has created an argument between the governments in Ottawa and Quebec, which in turn made people forget the real issue—economic security and utmost freedom for one and all. While the old-school politicians are bickering on this subject, the financiers continue to exploit everybody. But these manoeuvres are drawing to a close because, more than ever, people are aware of what is going on and want to know the real problems so as to better assess them.

In ending my remarks, I should like to say a word about the \$200 million which have been much in the news and on which the Quebec administration wants to put its hands. Officials of the Quebec government have stated that they would not conduct their election campaign on the back of the government of Ottawa with this matter of the \$200 million.

And, as soon as they had made that promise, their speeches on radio and television were all on this subject.

Mr. Speaker, one thing is certain, namely that I, as a member from Quebec, agree that this money, which has been collected through the 2 per cent social development tax, should be used for the people of Quebec. I wonder, however, whether it would not really be preferable to abolish this tax until appropriate agreements have been signed for the benefit of the whole population, and not make use of those \$200 million to create a surplus in the federal treasury. Since it is possible, through mere formulas, to dip into the taxpayers' pockets, could not the same means be used to reimburse them.

**Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières):** Mr. Speaker, I have great esteem for the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) and for the leader of the New Democratic party (Mr. Douglas) and usually I listen to them attentively as I did this afternoon. But I must honestly admit they disappointed me by put-