

*The Budget—Mr. Dufresne*

more it will be in a position to cast upon others the blame it does not have the courage to accept or to face.

Have you ever seen a more inconsistent government, more impudent to say the least, than the one which is now scuttling the future of our great country?

Not satisfied with collecting practically all the country's revenue, thereby depriving the provinces and municipalities of the means necessary to their administration, it is now shirking its duty and the responsibilities it had agreed to assume. The Liberal government in Ottawa wants to make the Canadian people believe that assistance to the unemployed is the responsibility of the provinces and municipalities.

Can you imagine more impudence on the part of a government? Cynicism goes so far as to say that although the matter is the responsibility of the provinces and of the municipalities, the government is nonetheless willing to grant generous assistance. What generosity, Mr. Speaker, with money that does not belong to us.

I repeat what I have already said, unemployment is entirely a matter for the federal government to deal with. I therefore urge the government to give it the immediate attention it deserves. Let us forget about conferences and political football games, and hasten to feed the hungry. Petty political interests have never done any good to the people. I therefore insist that the government forget about security of power, at whose altar it worships, and look instead to the needs of the people for whom the word security has unfortunately lost all meaning. Let the government stop acting with a view to winning elections. That is not the proper objective of a political party; nor does it agree with the definition of the word democracy. May I remind the Liberal party that democracy means government for the people, and not party security!

Let us take a look now at the situation facing the federal Liberal party and into the reasons why it clings to its policy of centralization. Why is the party acting in such a way as to prevent the provinces from recovering those sources of revenue which were borrowed from them? Why is it bent on conserving them at any cost?

Because the provinces, if these sources of revenue were handed back to them, would naturally have more money—and by the way, is it not theirs?—and then they would be in

a position to dispense benefits in the fields allotted to them by the Canadian constitution.

If the provinces recovered their own money, the federal government would have less and could not therefore continue to pay for the social legislation it has introduced with somebody else's money. As a result, the Liberals could no longer brag to the electors, because they would automatically be deprived of their platform. They would have to tax, and everybody knows that that is hardly popular among the people who are already too heavily burdened with taxation.

I believe I have sufficiently demonstrated, Mr. Speaker, that every irresponsible measure brought forward by the government was by no means directed to meet the needs of the people, but solely to win elections and to remain in power.

Again I say to the government: you are shutting your eyes so as not to see, and closing your ears so as not to hear that in Quebec city, more particularly in my riding, destitution and poverty have long since made their appearance and extend into the constituency of Quebec East, which the Prime Minister represents in this house.

What is the Prime Minister waiting for? When will he deal with this situation which cannot be tolerated any longer in his native city? On behalf of mothers and fathers overcome by poverty and dire need, I ask the Prime Minister in particular to show at least a bit of compassion and come to the aid of those unfortunate people! I urge the Prime Minister to give these hungry and ill-clothed children some solace and comfort. They are part of our human capital, the nation's future, and it is a crime to contribute to their slow and painful extermination.

Before looking for a permanent solution to the unemployment problem, which brings disaster to our homes and endangers the future of Canada, let us grant temporary assistance through the immediate implementation of the works project I have been asking for in this house for more than a year.

Quebec city and the surrounding area being the section of the country most affected by unemployment are clamouring for the public works I have been requesting ever since I was elected to this house.

Not only is the destitution of the unemployed disregarded, not only are they left without any means of livelihood, but the entire population of Quebec is allowed to be slowly poisoned by the St. Charles and Laitet