

Let the Minister of Finance bring down his own Conservative budget. When it comes, like everything else since the new government took office, there will be a lot less in it than the Conservatives promised the public and the public expected from them before and during the election.

● (2010)

An hon. Member: We will be responsible.

Mr. Gray: My hon. friend says that they will be responsible. If what has happened in the past five months is an example of Conservative responsibility, heaven help the Canadian people and the Canadian economy!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bob Rae (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, we come to this debate somewhat as we come to last year's breakfast, and I am afraid that so far the debate has been just about as edifying.

In his remarks introducing this budget bill the minister could provide no justification for its specifics. He did not give us any analysis of why the Liberal measures were regarded as the right ones to take, and he emphasized that the only change the Conservatives were going to be making to the Liberal budget of November, 1978, the last budget of the hon. member for Saint-Maurice (Mr. Chrétien), was that a loophole which had finally been closed by the Liberals was going to be reopened by the Conservatives, and that professionals will be able to continue to incorporate themselves and, by the magic of incorporation, thereby reduce their effective rate of taxation.

Then the hon. member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) could find only words of praise for the budget, without analysing one single iota of its features, without analysing one single measure which it put forward, and telling us that the only problem was that the government had taken a long time to bring forward its measures. Then he went on to talk about energy.

What I want to do in this debate is to look at the bill and to ask the Canadian people to consider why it is that the first measures which are brought to this House by the Conservatives are measures which were put forward by the Liberals, and why measures which are completely and perfectly palatable to the Liberals are also acceptable to the Conservative party?

I think we should want to ask ourselves what we are doing to our tax system when we allow the kinds of changes and developments which are so favoured by the government. When I listen to the hon. member for Windsor West, I am reminded that just as there were two kinds of Tories before the election—there were red Tories and blue Tories—we now find that there are two kinds of Liberals.

Mr. Kempling: And two kinds of socialists, the pink ones and the yellow ones.

Mr. Rae: There are black Liberals and grey Liberals. The black Liberals are those who thought that what governor

Income Tax Act

Bouey did was right up until May 22, and they have to agree that what he did was right after May 22. The black Liberals are those who are prepared to admit that they followed the same advice of governor Bouey up until May 22 and that they are prepared to carry the can and support governor Bouey after May 22. While I disagree and have disagreed with the hon. member for Saint-Maurice, the hon. member for Stormont-Dundas (Mr. Lumley) and the hon. member for Saint-Henri-Westmount (Mr. Johnston), I at least have some respect for their consistency. I at least know that they will not have worked with the governor of the Bank of Canada, accepted his policies and philosophy for many long years, and then turn around and stab him in the back.

However, the politics of some other Liberals whom I have described as grey Liberals are not so consistent. They are very selective in the Liberal tradition which they decide to present to the House as being the new, revised, reformed, revived, and enlightened Liberal party that they would now have us believe is going to lead Canada to halcyon days.

The problem with the Liberal party is that it is not at the moment an opposition; it is a government in exile. It has not lost that sense that it has, deep in its members' hearts, that somehow on May 22 the Canadian people made a terrible mistake, that all they have to do is snap their fingers and wake up and this horrible nightmare will be over, and once again those who are fit to rule will be ruling over Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rae: That kind of arrogance is exactly what led to May 22 itself, and that same spirit of arrogance is what will guarantee that the Liberal party will quickly evaporate.

Mr. Axworthy: This is not arrogance; it is sanctimoniousness. You are sanctimonious when you have never had power, and you don't know what it is about.

Mr. Rae: I have obviously upset some of the sleeping giants in the Liberal party, and I am quite happy that I have wakened them.

An hon. Member: The black ones or the grey ones?

Mr. Rae: They will have to declare themselves as to whether they are black or grey.

I want to look at the measures put forward by the Conservative party and the Liberal party in an effort to solve our country's economic problems. Let me suggest that our country's economic problems are many. Our prospects and our chances for the future are also many. We in my party have been criticized for being too negative, for being too carping, for being constantly critical, and for not looking at the positive side of things.

Let me say that the pessimists in this House and in this country are not those social democrats who have a conviction that Canadians can do better, that Canadians deserve more and that we have tremendous capacity and strength in our country. The pessimists are those like the hon. member for