

*The Budget—Mr. Bourget*

still giving this help today—and the hon. lady is quite wrong in saying that there were not facilities commensurate with the very small number of applications which there were from those countries.

**Mrs. Fairclough:** I think possibly I need only cite Israel and what has happened there to show the difference between a country in which we do have complete facilities and one in which we do not.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Surely the hon. lady—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The hon. lady has made an even grosser mistake, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** This process of correction cannot be carried on to a debate. I think I should terminate it here.

(*Translation*):

**Mr. Maurice Bourget (Levis):** Mr. Speaker, before I go on with the few remarks I should like to make about the budget, I want to point out that this house made a fine gesture last night when allowing the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) to leave the sitting before the end. Indeed we were thus afforded another opportunity to witness the minister's ability to answer the interesting questions tossed to him by distinguished members of the press gallery, and particularly to parry any question that proved embarrassing. On the whole, sir, he gave, as we say back home, a fine display of fancy skating.

When, on Thursday evening April 9 I listened to his review of the economic situation and heard him announce a tax boost and a third consecutive deficit, I couldn't help thinking what a disappointment it would be to Canadians in general, and particularly to those who, temporarily attracted by glittering promises, had put their trust in the Conservatives. Then too, and this is characteristic of the Minister of Finance whenever he finds it hard to introduce or to defend a case which, in his heart of hearts he knows to be wrong, he waves his arms, bangs on his desk and shouts at the top of his voice. I am making this remark in the hope that, if he takes it in good part, he will profit by it and, in future, will not let his opponents see through his game; this might help him defend his case with greater conviction, and without impairing his health considering that, as he said a while back, he has to work sixteen or eighteen hours a day.

I was just saying, Mr. Speaker, that people have been sadly disappointed. I do not wonder, because throughout the 19 years that I have been sitting in this house, our

friends now occupying the government benches and their friends regularly and solemnly promised on the hustings that, if they were elected, they would put a stop to waste and extravagance, that they would decrease taxation and extend social security, while introducing a balanced budget. Well, as in 1930, people unfortunately were taken in by those glittering Conservative promises. During the October 1957 session, taxes did come down, but only by a third of the amount promised by the Conservative party. They were increased—and the minister shakes his head in denial, but if he cares to go over the figures, he will see what was being promised at the time, when it was stated that the Liberal government of the day was overtaxing the people of Canada by 500 million dollars which, therefore, added up to \$120 per family.

Now, the tax reductions in December 1957 meant only \$47 or \$48. That is why we are right in saying today that taxes at the time were reduced by only one third. Old age pensions, pensions for the blind and pensions for disabled persons were increased, but family allowances were not, even if Conservative speakers, particularly in the province of Quebec, and I think that nobody can deny it—

**Some hon. Members:** Yes, yes.

**Mr. Bourget:** —were out-promising one another.

Well, it was a fine thing at the time, Mr. Speaker; it was the honeymoon. The members sitting on the government side, as well as their friends, waxed vocal, proclaiming all over the place, especially during the 1958 election, that the Conservatives had done more in seven months than the Liberals in 22 years. They had finally found, they said—

**Some hon. Members:** And they had!

**Mr. Bourget:** They had? Let me finish my speech and you will see that they had not.

Their contention was that they had found the magic formula that would solve all problems, minimize all troubles. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the picture today is quite different. The people now realize they were misled and that the honeymoon is over. It took the government only a year, to the day, that is from March 31, 1958 to April 9, 1959 to prove that it had misled the people.

In fact, in his budget speech of the 9th instant, the hon. Minister of Finance shattered the fine dream and, to quote his own words, —he must remember them,—it was an icy