

that time. Now I see that rates are back at 20 per cent. Will his committee take that subject seriously as did the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs? Will he be conducting an investigation?

• (1500)

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member's question is well put. As Hon. Members will know, members of my committee from all Parties have indicated that they feel the very important issue of credit card interest rates should be addressed. Members of all Parties have agreed to discuss this and will be doing so tomorrow morning. I anticipate we will be looking into this issue with all due haste.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government; and of the amendment of Mr. MacLaren (p. 1095).

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester): Mr. Speaker, although I have made a few short statements and comments, this is actually my first address to the House of Commons. It is certainly a honour for me to do so.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who elected me to this office, the people of Cumberland—Colchester, a riding in the north of Nova Scotia. These people selected me to represent them in this House as a Member of Parliament.

I have watched many new Members try to express their gratitude, their humility, and their appreciation for the opportunity to serve here as Members of Parliament. I have seen how difficult it is and I know now how difficult it is to express that gratitude. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I am truly grateful for the opportunity, and I hope I

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can justify the confidence my constituents have shown in me.

Since I have been a Member of Parliament now for about five months, I have experienced all kinds of emotions. I have found it interesting, frustrating, exciting and confusing, but one thing that never changes about being a Member of Parliament is that there is always lots to learn. In any one day when we come to work, we may talk about budgets, regional development, forestry, fisheries, defence, day care, veterans affairs, science and technology, Indian affairs, and on and on. Of all the things about being a Member of Parliament, I appreciate most the opportunity to learn about Canada and about all aspects of Canadian life.

Before I get into my remarks on the Budget, I would like to talk about two lessons I have learned in the last week and a half, lessons I have learned from the Canadian people. I am very glad to have had the opportunity to learn those lessons.

First, the Canadian people want their politicians to be credible. If they are credible, Canadian people will back them to the hilt. Second, as politicians, we underrate the ability of the Canadian public to separate the wheat from the chaff, to decide between what is right, and wrong and to determine what is the real story, no matter how much conflicting information we present to the public.

The first lesson is that Canadians want credible politicians. As we all remember, about a week and a half ago, there was a premature release of budget information to the public domain. It was referred to as a leak. I do not think leak is an accurate description. A leak, according to Webster's dictionary, is a slow release of material by accident. Certainly this was no accident. It was a determined effort by an individual who absconded with some confidential information on the Budget. That person tried to sell it to the media and that did not work, then tried to give it to the media on the phone and that did not work, so finally had to hand deliver it to the media. Finally he got his story in the news and caused a great deal of embarrassment for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).

I contend that very few Ministers of Finance could survive the onslaught that followed that premature release of information.