

anyone else, have rolled in the aisles with his brand of wit and his paralysing invective. I will continue to do so because I like it. But I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, what I have discovered about his wit; it does not buy the groceries for the widow or the low income people across this country, on in my riding of Burin-St. George's!

As beautiful as the minister's wit is, it is a veneer, a façade, a style of bravado which is designed to conceal, hide, and distract. Humour is all right in its place, but if there is one thing the mourners in a funeral procession can do without, it is an undertaker who flashes a greasy grin on the way to the graveyard. I will leave it to my colleagues who are more expert in these matters, such as the hon. member and former minister of finance, the hon. member for Saint-Maurice (Mr. Chrétien) and our spokesman on finance—I will leave it to them to deal with the more technical aspects of this budget, if they ever get the opportunity to do so in this Parliament.

My immediate concern relates to those issues which have a money impact or a pocket book impact on the middle and low income Canadians in my riding and all across this nation. The 25 cents a gallon increase in automobile gas with another 12 cents increase over the next year, the 15 cents increase for fishermen with another 12 cents increase during the next year and the 12 cents extra for people on home heating fuel over the next year, are all bad. I hear the minister talk about the conservation argument. That may well apply in certain parts of urban Canada, but I do not know because I do not represent an urban riding. I will leave that to my colleagues.

How do you conserve fuel in a fishing boat? Do you go half way to the fishing grounds? It is very good to have a car pool in Montreal, Toronto or Vancouver, but can you imagine a boat pool? Can you imagine the boys saying in the morning, "Don't take your boat this morning, George; we will put all the fish in my boat". These people cannot go out on a corner and wait for the bus. They wait two weeks for a boat. We cannot tell them to conserve by taking public transport. They only transport they have is their automobile, if they live near or on a road, or their legs. The latter take little petrol, but the cars and boats take a great deal of petrol and they cannot conserve it. These people have to use it if they are going to do their work.

I am dismayed at what the government is doing with unemployment insurance premiums. I heard the hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes) say in his speech yesterday that that is only the tip of the iceberg, and that it is only part of the full review. Why do they not tell us the full truth about what they have in mind? This budget is a Newfy joke because we in Newfoundland, like no others across this country, will bear the brunt of it, and from whom? One of the two men, including the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. McGrath), in that administration upon whom we thought we could depend to put our case in government! They are two Newfoundlanders themselves, and to whom are they socking it most? The people of rural Newfoundland, rural Canada, and all parts of this country!

The Budget—Mr. Simmons

If that is what the Minister of Finance is prepared to do to his own people amongst whom he grew up, then I shudder to think what he is prepared to do to the people of Canada as a whole. Perhaps the most prophetic statement in this entire document is the one which occurs on page 20 where the Minister of Finance says:

Fifty-one years ago my grandfather, Sir John Crosbie, delivered his fifth and final speech to the House of Assembly—

He went on to say:

—they had vision, confidence and courage.

And he could have added, "and a formula for bankruptcy". Sir John Crosbie was a Tory, but not a turncoat. Sir John Crosbie was a Conservative, though not a rank opportunist. His pedigree is that of a Tory, and that is about the only thing he has in common with the present Minister of Finance. They were both Tories by nature and by ancestry.

Let me make one other comparison. There are similarities in the two positions of 1928 and today. In both cases it was each man's fifth budget. The present Minister of Finance delivered a budget to the city council of St. John's, three to the provincial government and one here, his last!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Simmons: And it, like the other ones, is a harbinger. It is a harbinger of things to come. It is a frightful message of how bad it will get if this crowd is allowed to run the government affairs of this country much longer.

Finally, and on a pleasant note, let me say that if we do not get home for Christmas—I feel certain that we will with the vote that is about to come—do not blame the Minister of Finance for all the nice things I have said about him. Blame the President of the Treasury Board who, believe it or not, lost his estimates in committee. Perhaps we should put him in charge of the Prime Minister's suitcases. Not only did he lose his estimates in committee, he has not yet managed to find the Atlantic provinces!

● (2130)

I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Finance did not believe in Christmas. I owe it to the House to say why. He insists his birthday is not until January 30!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Allard: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Rimouski on a point of order.

Mr. Allard: Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to congratulate the hon. member who has just spoken. He was quite eloquent, but he gloated over too many things. I should like to ask him whether he would have any remedy to apply were he sitting where Progressive Conservative party members are sitting now.