

The Budget—Mr. Caron

the situation by saying that the voice is the voice of Jacob but the hands are the hands of Esau.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Esau Pickersgill.

An hon. Member: What a pun.

Mr. Pickersgill: The revised version.

Mr. Nowlan: I was quoting from the old version, not from the revised version which is coming into play today.

When one reviews everything that has been said so far, one finds there is nothing which has been advocated or suggested which is in any way sharp or clear cut. They use words. One thing is sure; they cannot possibly talk about deficit financing now, because one minute we heard talk about the spending of huge sums of money and in the next we heard about the lowering of taxes as a stimulus to employment. There was a very cautious pronouncement: "We will not oppose consideration of the red China question." Then there was a daring promise of free education at all levels, without much respect for the British North America Act. Then again there was one resolution in favour of scholarships, bonuses, bursaries and loan funds; this at the same time as the promise of free education at all levels. You pay your money and you take your choice.

I understand that reference has been made to a flag that is going to have a green maple leaf as the symbol of national unity. This is the safeguard, of course. It is going to be brought in within two and a half years after the election of a Liberal government. Well, the little maple leaf, in the words of the poet, will be sere and yellow instead of green, because I venture to suggest that many long years will elapse before a government represented by my hon. friends opposite will come into office to establish for us the flag with the little green leaf.

We on this side of the house are all very glad that our Liberal friends had a noisy and well attended convention. Their spirits were low and they needed encouragement. We know what that is like, because we went through it for 23 years and we have no doubt that they will undergo this experience for a longer period than we did. In the words of Joseph Howe, I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, and I have always followed Joseph Howe's advice in that regard. Nevertheless I venture to predict that no one sitting on the front benches of the party opposite today will ever again sit on the treasury benches in this house.

I will admit that is a prophecy, but I feel it is a very sound one. Personally I like hon. gentlemen opposite. They are amiable gentlemen, estimable characters, charming fellows and pretty good citizens. No doubt they will

learn in time and mature, and some day they may become a fairly effective opposition. For that reason we welcome the fact that they had this great and noisy rally attended by young people. They made lots of noise and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Even if they did sing "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" and upset the whole show, that was enthusiasm. We have all seen those things happen at political gatherings, and I am sure the delegates were delighted to see such enthusiasm.

We on this side of the house also believe in the two party system. We believe there should be two parties in this country and only two parties. Actually we want to see the two party system strengthened. We would like to see hon. gentlemen opposite mature to the point where they could effectively discharge the responsibilities of opposition, and perhaps even some day in the dim and distant future they will again become the government.

After all the noise and applause it was rather disappointing to hear the same old statements made about lowering taxes and increasing expenditures. They spoke of a lotus land where honey dripped from every tree. All you have to do is elect the Liberals and I suppose that even the water itself will be flavoured by some delightful concoction of liqueur and will taste more pleasant than the water that now comes out of the taps in the city of Ottawa. That was the illusion; that was the dream picture; that was the effect and the sum total of the Liberal convention after three days.

As I said, we congratulate hon. gentlemen opposite on their success in terms of the noise that was made, and we hope that as years go by they will enjoy success of another kind. I understand they will be meeting again in a year's time and perhaps on that occasion we will be able to congratulate them on having achieved some degree of maturity and judgment in terms of drafting a platform.

(Translation):

Mr. Alexis Caron (Hull): Mr. Speaker, I should like to deal with only one of the points made by the minister who has just spoken. In the first place, he was surprised that at one point the hon. member for Bonavista-Twilligate (Mr. Pickersgill) saw fit to criticize certain aspects of past Liberal policy. This does not prove very much except that the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Nowlan) is truly a dyed-in-the-wool Conservative. He cannot look back upon the past with a critical eye. Therein lies the difference, for we, members of the Liberal party, can look back upon the past in order to seek guidance for the future. If our party has made mistakes in the past, we are not afraid to admit it, because we are conscious of the fact