

sit during the usual adjournment between one and two, it being understood that no recorded division will be compelled, and that the House will continue to sit until five o'clock to continue the debate until that time? Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is agreed, and so ordered.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed, from Thursday, November 23, consideration of the motion of Mr. Chrétien that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Richard Janelle (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, in the past four years I listened to the budget speeches from the gallery here in the House and unfortunately, on November 16, I realized that nothing much was new. This year, I sit in the House as member for the riding of Lotbinière, a riding which had been represented for nine years by Mr. André Fortin. Mr. Fortin had won the respect of all his colleagues and was well regarded by the people of his riding because he worked for them. Today I succeed him in this place and since André often said "Hang in there, boys!", I intend to pursue his work in that frame of mind and really protect the interests of the people of Lotbinière against the whole present administration and bureaucracy.

Last Thursday's budget contained very few good news for the average worker. The minister was forecasting a decrease in the number of new jobs for 1979, down from 362,000 in 1978 to 250,000 in 1979. The only income tax concession was doubling the amount the taxpayer may deduct as job related expenses. Thanks to that measure, 6.2 million taxpayers will be able to share \$270 million, and this for next year only. Thus the government resolves to repay every Canadian an average of \$43.55 more in 1980. Talk about a fortune. As for the growth rate, it is set at about 4 per cent for 1978 and 4.5 per cent for next year according to the latest forecast by the Department of Finance. Some extremely difficult times are therefore expected in 1978 and 1979 for Canadian workers. Indeed, since there is general agreement to fix at 5 per cent the growth rate necessary to absorb the number of newcomers into the labour market, a substantial increase in unemployment should be in the wind.

Will the new eligibility criteria for unemployment insurance allow young people to draw benefits? Will they depend only on

The Budget—Mr. Janelle

their scarce resources to find a job or will they have to rely on public assistance to subsist? In his financial statement the minister also forgot to mention the percentage of unemployment insurance beneficiaries and of people who cannot get a job. Was this omission due to accident or to pre-electoral rhetoric? Let me refresh his memory. In October 1978, 910,000 men, women and young people were collecting unemployment insurance benefits. It means that 8.2 per cent of the Canadian population was unemployed. These persons will certainly not be able to benefit from the tax credits provided by the minister in his budget. Recently the minister blamed the Leader of the Opposition in the House under the pretence that his housing policy was discriminatory in the sense that it favoured the more well-to-do families, and yet he is just as unfair in his treatment of low-wage workers.

Now what about write-offs for development expenditures granted to mining and oil industries? According to the minister those write-offs to industries will create employment through the acceleration of their performance and development in a climate which is more favourable to production and growth. However, the minister forgets two things. It looks as though the first one will spring surprises. Most new production techniques will accelerate the marketing of products while creating very few jobs. In light of that argument, does the government still maintain that they will be able to create new jobs in the mining and oil industries through a tax incentives policy since the oil industry is now in full development and includes the most prosperous companies in the world? The natural development of that industry would probably have been sufficient to produce the jobs the government wanted so much without having to give tax incentives. Furthermore the government intends to bring Canadian oil prices gradually up to the international level. This policy alone should stimulate the oil industry.

In the special edition of the *Financial Post* published July 1, 1978 we can see a survey on the largest companies operating in Canada this year. According to that survey, 12 of the 40 main industries in Canada are found in the mining and oil group. The textile sector—which is represented by many plants in my riding—does not show up a single time. We therefore conclude that those industrial sectors, mining and oil, are less affected by the stagnation than the others. Still, they seem to benefit to a greater extent from the government's largess.

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The November 16 budget only confirms that tendency. Statistics Canada reveals that in October 1978 there were, in agriculture, 17,000 unemployed; in forestry, 13,000 unemployed; note this, in the mines, quarried and oil wells, 8,000 unemployed, and in the manufacturing industry, 149,000 unemployed. Therefore, why does our Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) intend to promote employment in an industrial sector which already benefits from considerable tax advantages, and in which the rate of unemployment is relatively low,