

*The Budget—Mr. Givens*

same with management, with lawyers, doctors and all other professional groups. As I say, it has become a way of life. We hail our ministers of labour as conquering heroes for getting us wage settlements at one half of what was asked for, when what was asked for in the first place was double what should have been asked. Inflation has got to be controlled and restrained, and we must fight desperately to increase productivity.

So far as new Toronto buildings are concerned, which we saw so much about and heard so much about in the newspapers, I believe that the minister's new depreciation allowance will not affect those new buildings where firm commitments have already been made. There is a provision for pro rata depreciation for multi-purpose buildings. For instance, I do not believe that the Campeau project, if it is to go ahead, can be stopped. I also believe that the new hotel on the south side of Queen Street opposite city hall will go ahead. So far as the C.N.-C.P. properties are concerned, in my considered judgment they are not ready to be developed before 1970, but since this is to be a multi-facet residential project the residential aspects could be proceeded with before going ahead with the commercial part. I think it is better to balance out the boom than to have a bust. We should have sustained, controlled growth. This would be obviously better than what we have now.

Editorial comment in Toronto papers on the budget has ranged from the *Financial Post's* "Very Tough Job Nicely Handled," to a shrill, shrieking *Tely* editorial which was captioned, "A Disastrous Budget." The *Globe and Mail* had a professional treatise on the subject headed "Will the Budget Work?" and concluded that it probably won't. The *Toronto Star* says that it probably will. So, you pay your money and you take your choice.

I think it is a good budget. I have heard nothing today which would make me change my mind. It shows intelligence, adaptability, willingness to innovate and try new methods. I support it and defend it against all opponents, including peripatetic mayors, particularly those who shoot from the lip in public interviews before they've even heard or read the budget speech.

One innovation I would like to see would be an interest tax credit, similar to the 20 per cent dividend tax credit granted to investors in the shares of Canadian companies. If I were minister of finance I would grant this to those who invest their money in housing mortgages at an interest rate of 8.5 per cent

[Mr. Givens.]

or less. I sincerely believe that the revenue lost from such a measure would be far outweighed by the mortgage money it would attract to the housing field, and I think it is worth a try.

Now, I should like to speak for a few moments about a few remarks that appear on page 12 of the text of the minister's budget speech. This has to do with the write off of \$125 million of Expo deficit during the current fiscal year. Oddly enough, Mr. Speaker, nobody has said anything about this so far. Nobody has said anything about this little bit of government largesse, which has already been paid in accordance with an agreement which was made when hon. gentlemen opposite of the Conservative party were the government of this country. They gave *carte blanche* whereby the federal government would assume 50 per cent of any deficit of Expo. What a blank cheque that was, and now we are paying the bill. This does not include the latest federal agreement to postpone the debt of the city of Montreal for a further five years, at our expense. That will cost another few million but, after all, it's only money and it's for the city of Montreal.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Givens:** But since we in metro Toronto contribute approximately one third of the income tax, the succession duties, the corporation taxes and the customs and excise duties of this nation, perhaps we may be permitted to say a word about this matter. If we are going to help pay for the hangover after the binge, I would like to say something about it. I remember that when I was mayor of the city of Toronto, the mayor of Montreal, Jean Drapeau, came to me for support. He said, "Phil, Expo will be good for all of Canada." And I agreed. He said, "Expo will unify the whole country." And I agreed. He said, "It will build bridges of brotherhood." And I agreed. He said that Expo would bring in lots of business to Canada, and I agreed. I went out and publicly supported it and asked the people of Toronto to go to Montreal to visit Expo.

But there was one more thing he said. He said, "Once we have finished with this world's fair we will never compete with the Canadian National Exhibition." He said this publicly and privately. I was not so naïve to believe it. I did not expect this undertaking to be kept and I was not disappointed. "Man