

*The Budget—Mr. Sulatycky***AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Allen B. Sulatycky (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to commend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) on the budget statement he delivered to this House last week. I believe Canadians should hear more statements of this type. In addition, his address contained a budget which I believe will strike with pinpoint accuracy at the most troublesome areas of unemployment in the country.

However, it is not so much the budget itself I wish to discuss tonight as the statement which went with it and the confidence displayed in that statement, though the budget itself was certainly well thought-out and contained a program vastly better than anything presented in the last few hours by spokesmen for the opposition parties. But let us consider the budget statement for a few minutes and examine some of the confident statements which the minister made, together with some of the facts to which he drew our attention as far as the Canadian economy is concerned.

My hon. friend pointed out that employment is, in fact, rising in Canada and that unemployment on a seasonally adjusted basis appears to be decreasing. He went on to say that real output in the economy is rising. Later he told the House we were experiencing a considerable boom in housing in Canada and that apart from housing, capital investment was strong. He said, further, that 1970 would go on record as the best year ever in international trade. Last, he informed us that Canada had achieved a record envied by other countries in the world in putting the brakes on price increases. From the third quarter of 1969 to the third quarter of 1970, consumer prices rose by only 3 per cent compared with 5.7 per cent in the United States and even larger increases in many other countries. Only one country had a better record, Finland, with an increase of 2.8 per cent.

The minister did not paint a completely rosy picture. He admitted there was an unemployment problem and said that the rate of growth of employment must improve. But all in all it was a very optimistic and confident statement, the kind of statement which is rarely heard in Canada these days. Sometimes, when we display optimism of this kind as we discuss the prospects of our country we are accused of being stupidly patriotic. Generally, when this House discusses the future of our country and the prospects of its economy we display a most pessimistic attitude. This negative or pessimistic attitude is evident throughout the country as it is in this House. I noticed it on the evening the Minister of Finance made his statement. Whenever he expressed confidence in the Canadian economy or in the future of this country there were snickers and guffaws from the opposition benches.

This is indicative of the attitude taken by some members of this House, including the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). I have heard it expressed on other occasions; for example, during the debate on the Speech from the Throne. But it does not alter the fact that the vast majority of the people still have great confidence in

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

this country. I believe we have to fight the type of negative attitude displayed by some people in this country and in this House. It is nothing new. The pages of history are filled with pessimistic predictions as to Canada's future. The one which perhaps most ludicrously underestimated Canada's potential appeared in an English newspaper of 1871 as follows:

A word or two on Canadian finances in general would be in season. Canada is one of the most overrated colonies we have. The country is poor and crushed with debt. The province and city of Quebec are notoriously bankrupt.

In the end, the Dominion will have to go into liquidation. One day, when the load gets too heavy, Ontario is pretty certain to go over to the States, into which it dovetails and where its best trade outlet is.

• (8:10 p.m.)

I suggest it is time we began to develop a positive attitude in relation to the prospects for this country, which are certainly very bright indeed. The attitude of people in this country seems to be that that we should criticize everybody and everything. This includes foreign countries. It is time we began to look at the good things in Canada and to take an optimistic and positive approach, the type of approach that the Minister of Finance took in his budget.

I should like to quote from a recent article that appeared in the *Banff Crag and Canyon* in which the editor was berating the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for its anti-American attitude. In a constructive spirit he suggested that the CBC should present a program on what a good country Canada is and how we as citizens can make it even better. He went on to say:

Maybe a series on the opportunities to get away from it all in the north and the chances to make a good living there.

Certainly, there are plenty of people in other parts of the world who would welcome the chance to come to Canada—to enjoy the things we take for granted.

The CBC should be pointing out, to Canadians, the many good things that await them right in their own country and forget about wasting the taxpayers' money on expensive programming beating the daylight out of the United States of America.

Those people who take a negative approach seem to think that government should do everything for them. They criticize government because it is not doing enough, and seem concerned only with what government can do for them personally. I suggest this approach is not only improper but does not display the type of positive attitude that has brought this country to its present state of prosperity, an attitude it will be necessary to adopt in the future to bring about even greater prosperity. Those who take a negative approach feel that some powerful central authority, be it a provincial or federal government, will look after them. Instead of expecting the impossible, I suggest these people should show a little initiative and attempt to improve their own position, as they could well do if only they would so determine.

Many people in this country have the idea that it is a wealthy country, that Canada has great resources, that the land is rich and that from the land and its resources we can do well economically both as a nation and as individuals. I suggest that the time when we can do this