

The Budget—Mr. Drew

of, and if the statement of the Prime Minister the other day was intended to be taken as the present position, that is the time to which we must look, and we find that Mr. Abbott had this to say in his budget speech in 1947, as found at page 2548 of *Hansard*:

The government of Canada looks forward to the day when the agreement of all or substantially all the provinces will make possible the achievement of the great national purposes which impelled the dominion to make its comprehensive proposals of August, 1945.

Do I hear applause in support of that statement? No. I hope that perhaps some of the hon. members opposite who did not applaud that statement by Mr. Abbott on that occasion are beginning to ask themselves: Well, where do we stand on this matter?

An hon. Member: Where do you?

Mr. Drew: After all, they were elected on that pledge, and it certainly is not too much to say that the government would be sitting on the treasury benches under false pretences if it did not intend to fulfil the undertaking given in 1953 when every member here, with the exception of those elected in by-elections, came into the present parliament. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I do think this is something that we certainly have the right—

Mr. Ferguson: Don't mention those election promises now.

An hon. Member: Forty-two points.

Mr. Drew: One of the hon. gentlemen opposite has shouted "42 points".

An hon. Member: Twenty-two.

Mr. Drew: May I suggest to him a re-reading of the Liberal handbook of 1953. He will find that 22 was just a fraction of the points put forward in this beautifully bound book put out at that time.

Mr. Hodgson: It was probably 21 skiddoo.

Mr. Drew: This is not an academic or theoretical subject we are discussing. We are discussing the very basis upon which the governments must meet if they are going to tackle the problem of dealing with the unemployed.

Mr. Garson: Would the hon. gentleman permit a question? If he were premier of Ontario today would he today accept the green book proposals in their entirety?

Mr. Drew: Oh, Mr. Speaker, I welcome that question because the minister is one of those who know perfectly well that I urged acceptance of the proposals when the facts were obtained and he sat there and heard me urge that.

[Mr. Drew.]

Mr. Garson: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Drew: I am continuing, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Garson: On a question of privilege—

Mr. Drew: I am continuing.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the minister is now raising a question of privilege.

Mr. Garson: My hon. friend has said that I sat there and listened to him accept the proposals. I sat there and listened to him, as premier of Ontario, reject them.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker—

An hon. Member: Sabotage.

Mr. Brown (Essex West): He scuttled that conference.

Mr. Drew: It is difficult within parliamentary rules to give an appropriate answer to the statement that has been made, but may I simply say that it is a most remarkable example of superlative inexactitude. I am compelled now, Mr. Speaker, to deal with this Liberal mythology. There was no rejection of the proposals, and the minister knows it.

An hon. Member: Who walked out?

Mr. Drew: I hear one of the Liberals to my right shouting "who walked out?" This is the most illuminating thing I have seen, the exposure by the Liberals themselves of the extent to which they have swallowed their own guff.

Mr. Rowe: Half of them do not know and the other half will not believe themselves.

Mr. Drew: They are confusing another occasion. The walk-out was in 1941 when the Liberal premier of Ontario walked out.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Rowe: You have started something.

An hon. Member: Rewriting history.

Mr. Drew: Someone mentions rewriting history. I know the Minister of Finance (Mr. Harris) does not like that, and for that reason I believe he will welcome the corrections that are being made this afternoon. He wants the history to be straight and I want it to be straight. In answer to the statement made by the Minister of Justice, I am now compelled to take sufficient time to make the record clear.

Mr. Rowe: He laughs best who laughs last.

Mr. Pickersgill: That will take a long time.