

Time Allocation

ideology of the government must be set aside in order to restore the basic confidence that is key to any economic recovery in this country.

The Progressive Conservative Party believes in the Canadian people and the great future of our country. However, we must first replace this arrogant, dictatorial and self-indulgent government that is glutted with 17 years of unrestrained spending and completely out of touch with the rest of Canadian society.

Today, Canada is at a crossroads both in government policy and lack in confidence of the Canadian people as a result of the political, social and economic system. When our people no longer feel that they can count on a secure future, then the whole system falls apart. Our party is working hard to preserve the Canada that we love and believe in. We acknowledge that there has to be restraint, but over-all restraint. We must act today to solve our problems. We have to replace this government with one that will adopt new directions and restore confidence and hope—most of all hope—to Canadians, and especially the 1.3 million unemployed Canadians, the poor, the elderly, the troubled home owners, the harassed small-business people and the dispirited investors.

If the Progressive Conservative government of 1979 had been left in office and its budget approved, Canada would today be indeed a more prosperous country. The Crosbie budget was designed to stimulate and give room to the private sector to expand and develop. The NDP do not like that. The budget was designed to encourage small business and to encourage Canadians to hold ownership through shares in Canadian companies and to deal sensibly with our energy problems. The Al sands tar sands project and Cold Lake would indeed be well under way. The east coast oil and natural gas resources exploration and development would have gone ahead without the unpleasant dispute with Newfoundland on offshore mineral development. The battle over unilateral changes to the Constitution would have been avoided. Co-operative federalism would still be in place.

It is the firm conviction of our party that these same directions and thrusts of the budget are still basically right for Canada. If our party had been in power and had introduced a budget on June 28 as a majority government, we would have implemented the following measures.

I see you are preparing to stand, Mr. Speaker, so I will conclude by saying that the present government has yet to see the light. It is continuing to discriminate against job-creating investment. It is continuing to discriminate against tax-employee benefits. It is continuing to tax businesses at an increased rate. It is attacking pensioners, and it has increased government spending by 20 per cent for two consecutive years while asking Canadians to restrain themselves by 6 per cent. It is asking Canadians to finance a \$20 billion deficit.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. The hon. member's time has expired.

• (1530)

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I always find it amusing to listen to Conservatives speaking

about this legislation, given the fact that they intend to stand in their places and support it one by one when the final vote comes. I find it a little hypocritical that they find themselves or think they are in a position to criticize something which they have already indicated they think is a step in the right direction. I often wonder if they ever read their own material in trying to decide just what side of these issues they are on. However, with that out of the way, I want to deal with what is before us.

The legislation which is before us is wrong. It is wrong because it does nothing to correct the many serious problems which currently confront Canadians and the Canadian economy. To limit the debate under Standing Order 75C as moved by the minister earlier today will not in any way assist us to bring this bill around to a point where it could at least be less oppressive. I think that is all we could hope to accomplish in this House of Commons.

When the bill was first introduced, it was totally unacceptable. Now that it has been amended, the bill is even worse. It is hard to believe that we could have gone through three or four days of committee proceedings and then found that the bill which ultimately came back to the House of Commons was worse. The chairman of the committee is holding up his hands to indicate that it was seven days. I appreciate that. I can make that out very nicely. The problem is that no matter whether it was three, four or seven days, the days were wasted, because the legislation is now more repressive and more unacceptable than it was when it first came in.

The government, together with its friends in the Tory party, has never believed in collective bargaining. It has been first in line to restrict it every single time that restriction was called for by anyone. Its supporters, the Liberal and Conservative big business supporters, are the people who are standing up and applauding this government, saying, "Don't you worry. We will be behind you all the way. You do not have to worry about us. We will restrict wages for you. We will make sure that people do not get enough to live on, do not worry. But whatever you do, do not ask us to restrict profits and do not ask us to restrict prices. After all, we need these high profits and these high prices while we are holding down people's wages."

Mr. Stewart: What pays for hospitalization?

Mr. Deans: Ian Sinclair, who now stands in the private sector and speaks on behalf of the government and its Tory friends, says, "Oh, yes, you do not have to worry about us at CP; we will make sure that we restrict the wages of our employees and we will encourage all the other people in the private sector with whom we come into contact to restrict the wages of their employees." However, he then goes on to say that companies which hold wage increases to 6 per cent cannot necessarily be expected to do the same with prices because survival, for him; depends on increased profits. He says that these profits and price margins must be restored or there will be a significant number of failures and more people will be out of work.