

The Budget—Mr. Hopkins

The report goes on to deal in detail with the items I have mentioned.

I always like to see prominent members of the opposition coming into my constituency and speaking at annual meetings of opposition parties. I have a rather interesting document here. This quotation is taken from an item which appeared in that eminent paper, the *Pembroke Observer* of January 29 of this year. The hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Aiken) was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Renfrew North Progressive Conservative Association. I will give him credit for this—I understand he told his audience that the present sitting member was not such a bad fellow. But then he went on to say:

Both Len Hopkins (Renfrew North) and Murray McBride (Lanark-Renfrew) spoke on a private members' bill complaining that eastern Ontario had been overlooked, but they might as well have been talking to a stone wall. The government doesn't listen to members on its own side of the House, let alone to opposition.

I wonder what the hon. member thinks today, six weeks later, now that the very area in which he was speaking is receiving special area status.

My colleague in the provincial legislature has also been taking me to task. It is great fun when you are under fire and the other guy is on top. You have to take advantage of the situation when you can, because you know the day will come when you will get the same treatment. The hon. member for the provincial riding of Renfrew North stated at the same meeting:

I suggest to Mr. Hopkins that when the province decided to have an equalization of opportunity plan we didn't go to the federal government to ask it to set up plans for us.

What Mr. Hamilton did not say was that, according to the Canadian constitution, the economic development of this country is basically the responsibility of the provinces. I disagree with this constitutional element. Mr. Hamilton should not be putting the blame on the federal government when his own government should have been doing more for the economic development of the province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It being six o'clock this House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock.

At 6 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.
