

The Budget—Mr. Frank

returns submitted unsigned, from fear of potentially falsifying these income tax statements. This government should be thoroughly exposed for such underhanded tactics.

Another area that disturbs me as a new member is the apparent lack of sincerity of some ministers in their replies to questions asked in the House. A good example is the time the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) was asked if there would be an opportunity for the citizens near Mount Hope airport to be heard. He intimated, and I quote:

Mr. Speaker, we might first have the opinions of members of parliament who contend that they have been elected by the people—

This was a convenient answer, except a bit contradictory to previous positions taken by former ministers of transport. This involved pressure brought to bear on this government to extend the runways at the London airport. There were three government members at that time representing the London area, but apparently the government would not accept their advice because the mayor and a delegation, at the city's expense, had to come to Ottawa to get final approval. If we in opposition are made to feel like nobodys by this government, what of the embarrassment of those particular members, two of them being still with us?

Mr. Speaker, you have heard of honourable mentions. Well that is about all this budget gives to the farmers by eliminating the capital gains tax on family farms. That may be very credible, but if we are going to encourage young people to take over farms, capital gains tax has to be eliminated from all bona fide transactions. Statistics tells us the average age of all farmers is too high, and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) tells us that an average of 12 farmers per day are leaving the industry. Mr. Speaker, that figure will get higher if they cannot afford to sell before they die.

The Minister of Agriculture has credibly increased the potential loan to a young farmer. That is fine if the farmer has any equity, but what is really needed is for the minister to encourage the balance of the provincial governments to incorporate the once-in-a-lifetime-gift for farmers, and it should include small businesses as well, to the limit of \$50,000. In this way, potential family business successors, whether they be farmers or small business people, could apply to the Farm Credit Corporation or the IDB and would have a decent equity for loans, with a reasonable chance of survival.

• (1500)

We have a committee investigating the high cost of food. If this committee accomplishes nothing else, the least it should do is establish in the minds of urban consumers, in particular, the true role the basic producer is playing in the food production cycle. The consumer must keep in mind that the so-called cheap food policy that seems to be on so many minds today will only lead to consistently dearer foods in the future. Tariffs, basic herd and quota rights are other areas of concern in agriculture which I strongly urge the Minister of Finance to reconsider.

[Mr. Frank.]

There are many more areas I would like to cover as this budget relates to my riding, but apparently time will not permit.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, in the time allotted to me this afternoon I shall try to deal with two subjects. I want to deal with some proposals of the Conservative party with respect to price and wage controls, and to talk about the importance of the manufacturing industry at a time of rapidly shifting international currents. I start with the proposal put forward yesterday by the likeable member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies.)

Mr. Gillies: The party proposal.

Mr. Gillespie: I accept that. Your leader endorsed it today. Two weeks ago this same member, the spokesman for the economic troika of the Conservative party, stated that if the Conservatives had been elected to form a government on October 30 they would not have brought in wage and price controls. Only yesterday he said that if a Conservative government had been elected on October 30 it would have brought in wage and price controls. This is an incredible position for anyone to take and, I suggest, even more so for a Conservative. I think most would agree that the Conservatives, more than anyone, dwell in the past.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gillespie: They are specialists in hindsight. They are the ones who are usually looking back. But when this man looks back, he finds two stories. He has not yet made up his mind. In his speech on the budget, the hon. member for Don Valley put forward the proposal to freeze immediately all wages, prices, interest and dividends in Canada for a period of 30 to 90 days—

Mr. Gillies: Sixty to 90 days.

Mr. Gillespie: —and thereafter put them under a comprehensive system of controls. Judging by the reaction this proposal had among his backbenchers and the comments of his leader today, that position has been endorsed by his party. We are aware that the Conservatives have been inching toward this position for some time. When questioned on this particular issue, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), as usual, stated, "Yes, we would not be afraid to introduce controls if necessary"—"if necessary" being underlined. Why has the Conservative party now come to the conclusion that the situation is so critical that the government should control wages and prices for Canadian workers and producers?

Mr. Baldwin: We heard the budget.

Mr. Gillespie: When he appeared on the CBC television program "Encounter," the hon. member for Don Valley said that a move toward controls could only be made on the basis of a national emergency. I think those were his words, "a national emergency." He was asked:

Do you think that five per cent inflation would justify a national emergency?