

The Budget—Mr. Fortin

an election budget intended to restore the fortunes of the administration of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau).

After four years of blind administration and buffer politics, in fiscal as well as in monetary matters and in the field of economic expansion, the victims of this lack of real policy cannot be counted.

The unemployed, families thrown out in the street, the number of poor and families in misery—the proof of this is in the Croll report—the number of bankruptcies among private enterprises, the frightening growth of the public debt, all this is everywhere in Canada. Witnesses of this failure, the structures are now threatening to collapse everywhere, so unfair and shocking is the economic and social situation for Canadians.

Before this confessed failure, the Trudeau government defines its budget as follows, and I quote:

The main thrust of this budget—is to buttress the Canadian economy—to provide incentives for Canadian industry to grow and compete and provide jobs.

And in the same breath, the minister adds the following:—to render justice to those people in our community who have been hurt by the rise in the cost of living and who have no way of fighting back.

Those are words, but the budget offers nothing to financially help the people to face the rise in the cost of living.

In spite of the publicity given to the budget speech, we have in the last few hours seen here in this House identical or almost identical reactions to those shown last year and before then on the same occasions. For some, the dyed-in-the-wool Liberals, the budget is automatically called a masterpiece. Let us say in passing that for the past 100 years, one always realizes looking back that this is a mistake, while for others, it is of no value because it does not come from them (I am speaking of the retarded Conservatives, who walk in the shade cast by the Liberals).

It is quite obvious that the truth has few chances of coming to light in such attitudes, either extreme or retarded conservative. For us, *Créditistes*, this budget is not much different from the previous ones, except that we are on the eve of a federal election.

Let us see what the budget brings forward: depreciation over two years in the case of machinery and equipment purchased from now on for use in manufacturing and processing goods in Canada. That will be good news for the big corporations which can afford expensive machinery and equipment. Within two years, they will buy all the machinery and equipment they can, notwithstanding their price. On account of this privilege from the Liberal government, they will be able to depreciate the full cost of such equipment over two years. Logically, we could argue that the more equipment those corporations will buy, the more workers they will lay off.

Therefore, such a policy runs counter to that of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) whose purpose and endeavours are to create employment. On the other hand, that department will invest as usual millions of dollars to create more or less permanent employment. On the other hand, the government will unduly promote the interest of the big corporations in encouraging them to buy machinery whose full

cost they will be able to depreciate over two years, which will contribute in increasing beyond measure the unemployment rate in Canada.

The Liberal government still goes further in the case of big corporations so that they will contribute to the election funds: it sets the reduction at 40 per cent, of general corporate tax only in the case of income from manufacturing and processing. There you have another measure to gratify those who are contributing to election funds. A 40 per cent reduction for big corporations, that's really something. That is a bitter pill to swallow.

We know that according to the budget, corporate income tax represents 16 per cent of budget revenue, against 17 per cent in 1970-1971. Not only will corporations pay less income tax than during the previous years, but they will benefit from a reduction to 40 per cent. The Liberal government does not forget those who contribute, since it is the only way to maintain the exploitation of the people by high finance.

On the other hand, on page 13 of the budget paper, one can read the following:

As is shown in table 5, income tax is again the largest source of government budgetary revenue.

In the field of personal income tax, the federal government will collect over \$5,540 million, that is over 39 per cent, that is an increase of 2 per cent over last year. We are far from the just society: the allowance is of 40 per cent for the large firms, but nothing constructive is being granted to the individuals, except a tax increase of 3 per cent. However, the minister said that the budget was intended "to render justice to those people in our community who have been hurt by the rise in the cost of living and who have no way of fighting back."

Mr. Speaker, I have read somewhere the following statement which has always impressed and which I found extremely strong until I came to the House of Commons and really understood its significance: "The future of the young people is being jeopardized by sinister capitalists who hang on to their manger; they are shameless and deprived of ideals." Young people don't know what to make of those capitalists—what I call high finance.

• (2150)

What strikes us is not only the concentration of money in a few hands, but the strength of the discretionary economic power held by a small number which is encouraged in this budget.

Those great masters of credit money and debt money which they freely use, those experts who inject credit money into the economic system can seal the fate of the people so that nobody can subsist without them. The financial magnates have been given powers devoid of any moral consideration.

The economic dictatorship controls the life of the nation by the issuance and receipts of credit through banks with the collusion of the Bank of Canada. In all budget papers submitted to us, there is no reference to that problem.

During its four years in power, the government has done nothing to improve the banking system in that regard. As in all fields, everything is dependent of finance, on those who are vested with such extraordinary