

The Budget—Mr. Bourget

These reports are as true a picture as the weather department can make them. They never tell us that there is a storm if there is no storm. To make sure that the opposition does not use the unemployed numbers game, which is just as dishonest as the numbers racket used by the Chicago gangsters, I would suggest that a weather chart type of report be set up for the unemployed. This chart would show how many are out of work because of seasonal shutdowns, how many are out of work because they are not able to hold a job, how many are working but are just listed for employment in a better position.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the Liberal opposition for the amusing aspect of the four-ring circus held recently. Most of the things that came out of that effort came strictly under the heading of comedy, and the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Nowlan) should collect amusement tax on it. Even over television it was apparent that it was a four-ring circus. One ring was at the Chateau; one ring was at the Coliseum and the other two rings circled the eyes of the Leader of the Opposition when the other mike would not work.

All hon. members will recall the good old days of the circus. They will remember the circus barkers who were always a drawing card with their exaggerated appraisals of the junk they tried to sell, but sold only to the unwary. We all remember those barkers and how they operated. Hon. members will recall how they dressed. They had a hard hat or christy stiff. They worked in their shirt sleeves; they wore arm bands with bow ties to match. I can even remember the pitch they made. Step up, ladies and gentlemen; I have something that should be in every home; it will cost you only 50 cents, folks, half a dollar. Watch carefully; I will show you how this handy can opener works. It works on square cans as well as on the round ones. Do you know what I am going to do? I am going to give the first ten purchasers a roll of bandages and a bottle of iodine absolutely free with each and every can opener; a free bonus for you, folks. You say you are not satisfied; you say you want more for your money? Step up closer, folks, I have hardly started. Do you know what I am going to do? I am going to throw in one of those combination fly swatter and potato masher, all for 50 cents, folks.

Then, Mr. Speaker, the handsome ring-master makes his announcement: Now, ladies and gentlemen, cast your eyes to the centre of the ring and you will see one of the wonders of the age, you will see the India rubber man of Essex East. Toss in a one and he will stretch it to ten. Toss in a 20 and he will stretch it to 90. Toss him 1,000

and he will stretch it to 2,000. Give him an inch, and he will stretch it a mile. You have found this out, Mr. Speaker, on numerous occasions.

The spotlight is now on the Bonavista magician, who will give a stellar and spectacular act of magic. He will draw an egg out of a hat. We do not say what kind of egg; it may be good, it may be bad, it may be only part bad; it may be a round egg, it may be a square egg; but, ladies and gentlemen, it will be an egg. There you are ladies and gentlemen, the trick has been done. Right before your very eyes, the Bonavista magician has removed his hat.

The barker of the Liberal party now talks like the circus barkers of old, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and gentlemen we will give you absolutely free, at no cost, folks, free health care, free education at all levels, higher old age pensions, reduced taxes, lower tariffs at no cost to you, with the taxpayer's money. At the circus, Mr. Speaker, you pay your money and you take your chance. With the Liberal government you certainly pay your money and you certainly take your chance.

(Translation):

Mr. Maurice Bourget (Levis): Mr. Speaker, I would not like to follow the example of the hon. member who has just sat down, because I believe that, as a member of parliament we should show more responsibility when speaking in this house. I do not know whether I understood his words very well, but I seemed to hear him speak of "yappers". Now, if there has been any "yapping" done it has been done by the ministers or by certain Conservative members themselves, at the time of the rally which took place on the ninth, tenth and eleventh of January last, when they roamed about the country trying to steal the publicity in the press from us by repeating the same speeches over and over again.

Mr. Chevrier: And the same nonsense.

Mr. Bourget: Mr. Speaker, in rising tonight to take part in this discussion, I do not propose to deal with the various measures suggested last month by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) in his budget speech, or rather I should say with the absence of measures which characterized that speech.

I believe that the various Liberal members who took part in this debate have clearly and effectively pointed out the weak points in the present administration.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take the opportunity of tonight's discussion to draw the attention of the government, and particularly that of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Balcer), to two questions. I am sorry that the