

The Budget—Mr. Chénier

Now I want to move on to the most important issue bar none in the entire budgetary question. What should have been done to stimulate recovery? It is certainly the most important issue for the country at large, and I assume that next to the prosperity of the Government and the Liberal Party it is important to those opposite as well.

Most experts, I think, are of the opinion that any recovery is likely to be consumer led. I have argued for months now that the best way of triggering a widespread recovery is by encouraging the small-business sector, thus spreading both the likelihood of strengthening employment and of increasing consumer demand over the widest possible base. Here, surely, there was room for Government initiative because there is not likely to be much increase in private investment until consumption starts to increase. So what did the Government do?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. Questions. Comments. Debate.

The Hon. Member for Timmins-Chapleau (Mr. Chénier).

Mr. Ray Chénier (Timmins-Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) and the Cabinet for the very human budget they submitted to Parliament this time around. This is the type of budget which is a job-creation budget. It is job-creation at two levels, in direct job-creation and in permanent job creation for Canada.

If you look at my riding, I have one major centre, that of Timmins. Timmins is very prosperous, it is probably one of the most prosperous cities in Canada. But also I have many small communities, towns and hamlets, hamlets without an economic base at all. If I look at this budget and at the \$280 million we have added to the NEED Program, I can see places like Biscotasing that will be able to get its dock built. If I look at Chapleau, it will have the benefit of some public works. If I look at Iroquois Falls, in the same way it will have some work done. If I look at small-business people in my community who have suffered in the last while, I see them reviving various projects. I am sure they will do more of the same when the NEED Program takes over in a month or so.

● (1740)

As I said, Timmins is a prosperous city. Its airport very badly needs a general aviation area. I hope through the fast tracking of the Special Recovery Program we will see fit to put in approximately \$1.5 million to develop that general aviation area, to provide maintenance hangars and warehousing in that area of our city.

Timmins is primarily a mining community. A number of companies have been taking part in gold explorations in the area. These small companies are ready not only to continue exploration but to go into production. The Liberal Cabinet has seen fit to help them and bring them onstream. Through tax incentives the cost of exploration for these junior companies can be spread over all their revenues, instead of exploration costs being recoverable only from their mining revenues. Under the investment credits given to Canadian investors in

Canadian companies, we will see the money so badly needed by these junior companies being invested in them. Then there will be additional gold mines or other basic mineral mines developed in the Timmins area. Those are the investments which will create permanent jobs in my City and in my riding.

Mr. Nickerson: Put it in your householder.

Mr. Chénier: That is what I did. The people of Canada must be made aware that the Government at this time decided to put the Canadian economy back on track. This is what the Conservatives have never been able to do. Every time they assume power they put Canada into a depression. They came to power in 1979, and things have gone wrong ever since then.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chénier: Finally we have been able to bring Canada back on track. Many small businesses have encountered serious losses during the past recession. The budget indicated that these losses are recoverable. By going backwards for three years and forward for seven, we see light at the end of the tunnel. These small businesses will now show a profit. They will be paying taxes again. Because of this very humane measure these companies will not have to close. They will continue their operations and keep their employees. In some cases they may even be able to expand.

In the City of Timmins we need housing. We are so short of housing that people are living in various kinds of accommodations. When I look at the additional \$30 million in \$3,000 grants, I see 20 to 50 houses being built in the next month which people will be able to purchase so that they can live in decent accommodations. Over the last year the Home Renovation Program and RRAP have been so popular in Chapleau that there is a list of hundreds of people awaiting moneys to do renovations to their homes in rural and depressed areas. We had not been able to give it to them, but now RRAP will be getting \$40 million, and the Home Renovation Program will be getting \$100 million and the people of Chapleau will receive additional moneys to repair their homes. This will put people back to work. This is what the budget is all about. When I look at the home ownership program—

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. It being 5:45 p.m., pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 64(7), it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the amendment.

[English]

The question, therefore, is on the amendment. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.