

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

## THE BUDGET

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, having heard the speeches of the Progressive Conservatives and the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Lewis), I venture to say that we have seen it all. I never thought that one day I would see a socialist and conservative coalition in the Canadian Parliament. It is the most disgraceful spectacle that I have seen in this House.

The Progressive Conservative Party which doesn't care a damn about the consideration that must be given to legislation is solely concerned about coming into power since October 1972. Mr. Speaker, the NDP members have been constantly repeating that a minority government is healthy for the Canadian people. We now have one, but they are not satisfied. Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic Party is now more powerful than it will ever be in Parliament. I hear them saying: "Old age pensions have not been raised, income tax has not been lowered, social measures have not been increased, this or that has not been done." Mr. Speaker, when we Social Crediters introduced in this House some motions aimed at raising pensions and granting them at age 60, the New Democratic Party voted against us. When we proposed the establishment of an annual guaranteed income to be added to earnings, the New Democratic Party voted against us. Mr. Speaker, when we urged granting interest-free loans to the Canadian provinces, the New Democratic Party voted against us, and, let us not forget it, the Liberals did also.

● (1650)

Mr. Speaker, when we suggested a compensated discount on retail prices to fight inflation, the members of the New Democratic Party once again voted against us. And today, the leader of the New Democratic Party said that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) is a hypocrite because of last night's budget. Mr. Speaker, since 1972, the true hypocrites of Parliament have been the members of the New Democratic Party. There is not one of them who did not tell his constituents: Look, old age security pensions are now \$190 a month because of us, the New Democrats. However, the Social Crediters have been asking for improvements in the social field for 35 years. The New Democrats are showing themselves as hypocrites and liars throughout Canada. This is so true that if their ideas were good, the New Democratic administrations of Western Canada, in British Columbia, in Saskatchewan and in Manitoba would do something, at least in these areas. On the contrary, it is worse there than elsewhere. There is now a general strike in British Columbia where there is a New Democratic government. What is done to settle it? Nothing. This is where I say to the New Democrats:

*The Budget—Mr. R. Caouette*

"Defeat the government, you have the balance of power." Mr. Speaker, they can defeat the government tomorrow night, but I warn them who have only 31 members in Parliament now that if the present minority government, which is doing more for the population than any other majority government before it, is defeated, they will not be more than 10 after the next election.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** You may not come back either!

**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):** I will tell the hon. member which ones will not come back. Listen carefully, I am going to be frank. Obviously, in the event of an election, we Social Crediters do not expect to be in power, but I think we shall have the balance of power since, in my opinion, another minority government will be elected. Then, why another election? To have another minority government? We have one. We are going to spend \$50 million to hold an election when the Canadian people are asking for action and not election.

Mr. Speaker, I said I would be frank: at this time, an election will settle nothing. I am going to be frank; it is the third time I have said this. In the western provinces, in British Columbia, where some NDP members are coming from, one NDP member will probably be elected, and note this, the other NDP candidates will be defeated by Progressive Conservatives.

Mr. Speaker, let the NDP members join together to be cleaned out in British Columbia. That is good. In Ontario, it is the opposite. Some ridings represented by NDP members in Toronto will go to the Liberals.

Mr. Speaker, I met with some York South constituents, workers who are members of the NDP and have never been Social Crediters in their lives. They told me that they would vote against the leader of the NDP, the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), who will not return here after the next election.

**Some hon. Members:** What about Quebec?

**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Some NDP members are asking what will happen in Quebec. They have no need to worry, none of them will be elected in Quebec. It is not a problem in Quebec, and they know it, their own leader put it straight: There is no way in Quebec.

I am asked:

[English]

**An hon. Member:** How many will you get in Quebec?

**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):** I can't say but we will be more than 15 for sure.

[Translation]

In the province of Quebec, they tried everything to infiltrate the unions, for instance, with "Big" Pepin, "Big" Laberge and "Little" Charbonneau. They thought: The workers will certainly follow us! So they sent nearly all their elected members into the province of Quebec, but these all came back saying: "Our scheme did not work!"

Come election time, none of the New Democratic Party candidates ever succeed in recovering his deposit in the