

Election Promises

Mr. Bossons went on to say that the taxes of a one-income family with two children, in which the father earns \$10,000 a year, would go up 30 per cent in 1980 if the government drops indexing. But if the father's income does not go up, and assuming an inflation rate of 9 per cent a year for five years, the cumulative effect would be for his taxes to go up 180 per cent by 1985. That is the little present which the Minister of Finance wants to give to the low income taxpayers of this country. I could give a lot more examples, but I will not.

One of our newspaper columnists, a great Canadian national statesman named Charlie Lynch, wrote a column which made a lot of sense in the Montreal Gazette for June 25. Mr. Lynch came to the conclusion that the NDP's motion seemed preposterous. That is just what it is. He says to the Leader of the NDP that he should cease to be Georgie Porgie who hits the girls and runs away. He is Georgie Porgie, pudding and pie, who kissed the girls and ran away.

An hon. Member: "Made them cry".

Mr. Crosbie: All right, "made them cry". The Minister of Finance has been asked to kiss a few people here today, or was it the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce? A kiss from him would certainly make you cry. So I say, cease being Georgie Porgie. Never mind these irresponsible motions which the NDP are bringing in which they think are so clever, because this one was a motion which the Liberals voted with the NDP on last December 13, and that the same motion will be embarrassing to the government.

It so happens that the motion this time is relevant, and one can vote for it with a good heart and in all clear conscience. Because if there ever was a group that should be unreservedly condemned for their outright betrayal of election promises to lower interest rates, cut taxes and stimulate the growth of the Canadian economy, this is the group.

What were some of their promises? Even the guru who recently left the gondolas will have to admit that there were some promises. What are they? Here is a CP dispatch from Toronto dated January 12 which reads as follows:

A Liberal government would hold down government expenditures—

We have just had a \$2 billion increase in government expenditures to \$60.4 billion. The then leader of the opposition in Toronto said that a Liberal government would hold down government expenditures. It is out of the window with that promise; that was discarded immediately. The CP dispatch continued by reporting that the Liberals would:

—reduce the budgetary deficit and make the tax system more equitable, Liberal leader Pierre Trudeau promised Saturday.

The deficit has gone up \$3.7 billion so far to in excess of \$14 billion. So much for that promise.

Now I will deal with the phrase "make the tax system more equitable". Yes, this can be done by de-indexing the income tax system or by imposing an oil refinery tax at the refinery level so that every consumer of products from a barrel of oil in this country will have to pay higher taxes, including those who heat their homes in the maritime provinces and elsewhere in

Canada. That is the more equitable tax system which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) promised that Saturday in Toronto.

What else did he promise? He promised a made-in-Canada oil price that is fairer to all Canadians. When will that materialize? We were defeated 194 days ago, on December 13, yet this government which defeated us has not yet brought down a budget. It has no alternative proposals and it has no oil price agreement. Where is the made-in-Canada oil price agreement? Where is the double-tracking? The Liberals were going to double-track the railway tracks from Winnipeg to Vancouver. They have not double-tracked the railway tracks. All they have done is double-cross the country. They have given up. The only pledge they made that they are keeping is to double-cross this country. That is what this motion is about. That is why we will support the main motion once our own amendment is carried.

● (1650)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacEachen: We won't get to the main motion; we will be having a summer election.

Mr. Crosbie: A summer election, I would welcome that. We would be over there with about 250 members.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacEachen: That is what you said last December.

Mr. Crosbie: At the same meeting in Toronto, the Prime Minister said a Liberal government would reduce the deficit. Then he made a qualification, but not at the expense of jobs, growth and the attack on inflation. He has not reduced the deficit. He has increased it \$3.7 billion. He has increased unemployment. He has reduced growth, and he has not attacked inflation. Therefore, he has done none of this.

This is what the great man promised in Toronto. He said that new government programs would be financed by real-locating existing expenditures or by increasing taxes. Yes, the minister has increased taxes, the taxes he voted against in my budget of December 11. With the exception of the excise tax on gasoline, he has brought them back into the House or he is putting them through the House now. That is how he is increasing taxes.

He promised not to add to the deficit. The Prime Minister said he is going to review the tax system to ensure that all corporations and individuals will make their fair contribution. Isn't that pretty? Already the Minister of Finance has done that and he is going to do away with indexing.

Mr. MacEachen: Don't be like the NDP, John, be honest.

Mr. Crosbie: In that way we will all make our fair contribution. The Prime Minister said they would not make many promises during this campaign. I am glad that they did not because they have broken every one they did make.