

Minister of Finance. If he wants to reduce that deficit, then he is going to have to increase revenues because that is the only way to reduce that deficit. The minister of Finance, when he was appointed, said this; "he is concerned but not consumed by the size of the government's \$11.8 billion deficit." He is certainly not consumed by it because he has allowed it to balloon by \$3.7 billion.

At the same time he said:

The best way to bring about lower interest rates is, of course, to reduce, generally, inflationary pressures in the country.

How is the gentleman going to reduce the inflationary pressures in the country when he is ballooning up the deficit in excess of \$3 billion, when he is allowing the borrowing of the government to go up \$3.7 billion? How is he going to control inflation? What is his program? What is the lead that this government gives the rest of the country? What lead do ministers give our corporations? What lead do they give our citizens? Their lead is spend, spend, spend; and borrow, borrow, borrow. Do not give a darn. That is their lead. That is the advice they are giving the country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Crosbie:** You cannot always be Dr. Jekyll, sometimes you have to be Mr. Hyde, Madam Speaker.

**An hon. Member:** That is what he is.

**Mr. Crosbie:** This honourable gentleman is going to be Mr. Hyde before his term of office is over because he is going to have to raise billions of dollars in additional revenue. Now he thinks that perhaps somehow in the oil negotiations with Alberta, after they have come to a standoff and there is a breakdown, that he and his government—the muscle men of confederation, those who so love this country and are trying to hold it together—are going to put the blocks to poor old Alberta and they think they are going to get \$2 billion, \$3 billion or \$4 billion in oil and gas revenues from the oil and gas industry. That is not in the cards. There can be no united Canada. There can be no Canada whole and undivided with any government in office here in Ottawa which thinks it can crush the life out of Alberta or the west and redeem this huge increase in the budget deficit.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Crosbie:** Nor can it bully around the provinces on the east coast, the provinces that should have control of the oil and gas resources. There is going to be very little oil and gas developed in that area unless this government comes to its senses and reaches an accommodation and a *modus vivendi* with Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and the other eastern provinces.

● (2200)

They better put that in their pipe and think about it because the next four years or five years will be their last. They are not going to see the government side of these halls again for the

rest of the twentieth century, I can assure them of that. Where is the made in Canada interest rates we were promised?

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Crosbie:** I call it ten o'clock.

### Adjournment Debate

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

### PRORATA PENSIONS FOR WIDOWS OF VETERANS ON DISABILITY PENSION

**Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Madam Speaker, I rise to direct the attention of this House to a very important matter. I thank the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald) for being here at this time of night to deal with it. The matter is one of great concern to the widows of many of our veterans. It is also of concern to a great many of our veterans who are anxious as to what may happen to their wives if they, the veterans, die first. I put this matter to the Minister of Veterans Affairs on Wednesday, April 16, as reported at page 68, when I asked this question:

In view of widespread support for the proposition that prorata pensions should be paid to widows of disabled veterans where the veteran's disability pension was below 48 per cent, and in view of the statement made to the media by the minister a couple of weeks ago that he was planning to bring in such legislation, can he tell us if it will be introduced in the House at an early date?

The minister in his reply indicated that he was conscious of the importance of this legislation, that he was also conscious of Bill C-28 that was introduced in the last Parliament by the previous minister of veterans affairs. We also indicated that he would be making further recommendations. I rise now to express the hope that in his response to my question tonight he will make it clear and unequivocal that legislation on this matter will be brought in at this session.

I join with others in commending the former minister of veterans affairs, the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon), for having brought in a bill last December 6 that would have breached the 48 per cent rule. Unfortunately, there was no time between that date and the end of the session for the bill to be called for second reading.

I say quite frankly to my hon. friend from Victoria that I thought there were certain deficiencies in that bill. In my view, it did not provide a sufficient level of pensions for widows where the veteran's disability rate was below 48 per cent. I thought also that it was a shame that in that bill there was a provision that it would not come fully into effect until six years had gone by.