

*The Budget—Mr. Caouette*

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Does the house give unanimous consent for the hon. member to continue his speech?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Translation]

**Mr. Caouette:** Thank you Mr. Speaker.

We can hold different views and yet remain sociable, as the hon. members are proving now. I will do the same thing in return.

Mr. Speaker, what the Canadian people have been expecting for more than a hundred years, is an efficient, up-to-date government, a government that is adaptable and does not fear to go out and get the tools required to give economic, political and social security to every citizen.

It is my distinct and clear impression that every member holds the view that we should have an aggressive government, a government which is not afraid to take decisions or to face the current evolution. Instead of maintaining the status quo, of holding back, of marking time, let us go ahead when it is time to do so. Let us take the means and build the tools to do the job. It would not be honest for me to say that I reject everything in the present system. Far from it, but I submit that the present administration is not dealing with the real problem. I have said it several times, the government is not dealing with the major problem that now impairs every measure it is recommending or thinking of initiating.

In his budget speech, the minister said:

The past 18 months have been eventful ones in our fiscal affairs—a budget and a mini-budget, three bills to amend the Income Tax Act, one to amend the tax provisions of the Old Age Security Act, two to amend the sales tax, two temporary restraints on business capital investment, the commencement of the Canada pension plan which had major fiscal effects, several reviews of government expenditure policy, a major debate on inflation last September and a long series of hearings by a joint committee into the increases in consumer prices.

It is clear, is it not? Without underrating those initiatives, it is obvious that those solutions to the present problem are simply patchwork measures in an effort to remedy the worse. Nevertheless, they remain only poultices on wooden legs and do not solve the problem.

But of all those pieces of legislation, not one is intended to make our national economy a modern, efficient, flourishing and balanced economy. Is the problem of cyclical crises such as inflation cured and avoided? Absolutely not. Everyone knows that.

All those measures which the government introduced in the house have not solved the problem, since the minister, in his present budget, warns the Canadian people against the dangers threatening them. That is not new. It is the repetition of what we were told five, ten, even fifteen years ago. I remember that twenty years ago, the hon. Mr. Abbott, who was then minister of finance and who is now puisne judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, made the same speech or a similar one to that which we heard the other day. Now, that proves that the measures passed by this house were simply temporary, incomplete and inefficient.

Therefore, I ask the minister to explain, for the benefit of all Canadians who are deeply concerned at the present time, how he intends in peace time, to make our economy flourishing, productive, fair, balanced, free of disastrous cyclical crises such as inflation or hardship within affluence.

The creditistes are not not the only ones to contend that and I take the liberty, before concluding my remarks, to quote the comments made by Marcel Pépin, a newspaperman of *Le Droit* of Ottawa, in the issue of June 2 last:

If the Minister of Finance advocates, for all practical purposes, a policy of moderate wage increases, he still refuses to set up a policy for the maintenance of prices and the control of profits, so that his budget speech is nothing but a speech, an exhortation.

Well equipped with documents and data supplied by the officials of the Department of Finance, Mr. Sharp was able to utter his fears concerning an economic distortion in 1967, but fettered as he is by the capitalist character of the government of which he is a member, he merely submitted an exhortation on present conditions.

I understand that Mr. Pepin would like to see a policy of price and salary control, in short, the control of the entire Canadian economy, but the creditistes do not advocate such a controlled economy. On the contrary, they advocate that the way to restore the balance between production and the consumers' purchasing power in Canada, is to distribute to every Canadian citizen a sum called a national dividend based on the difference between Canadian production and the national income, at the present level, thus creating neither inflation nor deflation but restoring the balance between the purchasing power of consumers and Canadian production. Such is the solution of creditistes.