

The Budget—Mr. Givens

materials and labour to residential and industrial purposes, even within the sectors where it is being applied in the three provinces of Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. It is intended to divert these needed resources from sectors in the community where the capital has become overheated.

Some members of the opposition say this will kill building. In the same breath they say it will not work, that the people in the building industry will go ahead and build because they figure there is going to be a rise in price. The hon. gentlemen cannot have it both ways, Mr. Speaker. You cannot suck and whistle at the same time. Either it will work or it will not work. We say it will work.

The Leader of the New Democratic Party, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas), in the last election campaign made speech after speech deploring the fact that the government was doing nothing about the flashy new bank buildings, the theatres and the hotels. The government is now doing something about them in this budget. This is bound to affect the conduct of the lending institutions with respect to plans six months hence. I do not believe any significant change will take place within six months, but in six months there will be a remarkable and definite change. Anyone who has ever been involved or had anything to do with construction knows that the first two years are not big earning years in commercial buildings because they have a high breakoff point. It is not until there is approximately 80 per cent occupancy that you start to make a profit.

This measure will undoubtedly divert finances from marginal, non-essential projects to housing and industry. This is what we want. We talk about this being discriminatory on a geographical basis. When we make a comparison between the provinces we find some rather startling facts. I draw the attention of hon. members to a booklet entitled, "Private and Public Investment in Canada Outlook 1969 and Regional Estimates". This is published by the Queen's Printer. Hon. members should get this booklet because it is very illuminating. It points out with respect to commercial construction that in the province of Ontario there will be an increase of 31.7 per cent in one year. In the province of Quebec there was a decrease of 6 per cent as compared with an increase of 31.7 per cent in Ontario. With respect to business investment, Ontario is up 20 per cent over all. In the

province of British Columbia business investment is up only 5 per cent, and in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces there is hardly any change at all. In Quebec it is down from \$352.6 million in 1968 to \$324.4 million in 1969.

● (8:30 p.m.)

So far as unemployment figures are concerned, in Ontario the unemployment figure is 3.7 per cent. In Quebec it is 8.4 per cent, and as hon. members know, anything over 6 per cent is serious. In the Atlantic provinces the unemployment figure is 10.5 per cent. So, Mr. Speaker, you see it is only sensible to apply regional remedies. You cannot cure a high fever by more fever, or high blood pressure by hypertension. You cannot cure my weight problem by asking the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) to go on a diet.

Several hon. members have said, "Don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg." I say we don't want this goose to die of coronary thrombosis either. The hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) says, "Don't knock success on the head," but we don't want too big a head of steam or something will burst. This is designed as a safety valve and this is the way I feel it will work.

With respect to labour costs, last week the *Toronto Globe and Mail* indicated wage settlements for Toronto construction workers of 12 per cent for the next two years. Today, the *Toronto Telegram* had a front page article which showed that Toronto electricians are to get \$6.20 per hour, which is \$232.50 per week for a 37½ hour week. This is more than we get paid as members of parliament.

An hon. Member: That is because they give light.

Mr. Givens: So, we give heat, and we make up for the difference. I shudder to think how much our housing freeze, imposed last fall, will cost us when the contractors come back to have their contracts adjusted with respect to these new wage rates. I believe that inflation is chronic. I really do not believe it can be cured. I believe it has become a way of life. I have been bargaining for almost 20 years with labour unions, and in that time settlements have always been in an upward direction. New administrations come in with the best intentions in the world, but they find their hands are tied with these negotiated increases. I am not being anti-labour. It is the