

Government Orders

the government had made the enormous slashes to the funds of the university.

I see my time is almost up and there are so many other things we could talk about. We could certainly talk about the budget for a long time as well. The member from Ontario was bragging about how this budget was so good for business. All these cuts were going to turn, not only Ontario, but the nation into a nation of productive and efficient workers.

Since this nation began, that is the philosophy we have had. We have been giving money away hand and fist to corporations and companies and what have we got? We have got a country that is bankrupt. Four hundred billion is a lot of money. That has been the problem. We have been giving money away to these financiers and it has not helped us a bit. There was a line in an editorial in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* just at the time when someone was suggesting what we ought to do is cut back on the unemployment funds to people. The question asked in the editorial was: Do you really think that putting plenty into the hands of the gentry is going to improve the financial and economic situation in this country? The answer, of course, is no. The failure of this nation and the failure of the economic leaders of this government have been that we have been giving too much money to the corporations. We have been giving too much money to the financiers. What they have done is taken it and run.

• (1800)

I would suggest that when money is put into the hands of the small business people they do not run across the border. I suppose they could, but they do not want to. They want to stay in the communities and they want to develop the jobs there. Certainly the evidence is that small business people do that. I suggest that the time for putting plenty into the hands of the gentry has long since past. I only wish that this government would wake up to the fact that this is the latter part of the 20th century and realize that it does not work. It has not worked in any of our past history. It certainly did not work in the 1930s and it is not working now.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have left?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member has three minutes left.

Mr. Fisher: Oh, three minutes. Okay, that is wonderful. I just have time to relate a joke.

I studied theology at one time in the United Church. There was a joke among the theologians at the time about this United Church minister who went down to Vegas. Now United Church ministers and United Church people in general are not gamblers, but he is down there and he is sure that none of his parishioners are around.

He says: "Well, by golly I am going to gamble just once." So he decides he is going to gamble on a horse race and he figures that the best thing to do is go around the stables. He has heard peripherally that is what you do and you can maybe get some inside dope.

So help me, he sees a priest and the priest is paying quite close attention to one of the horses that is in the race. He says to himself: "Ah ha, that is just the kind of inside information I need." So he bets on the horse and it comes in last.

He figured that it served him right because he should not have been gambling in the first place. By chance he ran into this priest a little while later and related to him what he had done. The priest just laughed. He says: "That is the trouble with you United Church ministers, you do not know the difference between the blessing and the last rites."

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that this government does not know when it ought to be administered the last rites.

Mr. René Soetens (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I thought I would respond on two points.

Obviously there was some comment made with regard to my comments about the items in this budget that are good for Ontario. I do not apologize for those comments at all.

Suffice to say that some of the items in the budget have recognized some of the comments not only from members opposite but from an extensive public community about the problems of manufacturing in Ontario. I am pleased to see that the government, through the budget announcements, has recognized that there are some problems and we have acted in our jurisdiction, where we can, to try to resolve some of them.

The other point I would like to raise is the issue of transfers to the province of Saskatchewan. The member who has just spoken clearly stated that our transfers to the province of Saskatchewan have not kept pace with