

The Budget—Mr. Crosbie

Now he says he has resolved to support the Bank of Canada in its pursuit of monetary policies that will not accommodate inflation. What a joke! The Governor of the Bank of Canada has stated time and time again, in as harsh a manner as he can when he is speaking in public—and he cannot be too harsh or too critical of the government—what he feels needs to be done. He sent out a piteous plea. He said that monetary policy, interest rate policy and controlling the rate of growth of money supply are not enough. He said, “The government must help us with its fiscal policies if we are to overcome inflation.” That is what he has said. I quoted the governor last night. I will give another quotation now from what he said before the Senate National Finance Committee on May 29, 1980. He said:

Good monetary policy, although absolutely necessary, needs to be accompanied by many other adjustments if we are to achieve our economic objectives—

That is what he said, and I could go on. I gave the House some quotations last night about the deficit. He said:

—let’s keep it from increasing, if we can, as a minimum.

What we need is lower government deficits and a reduction in the total size of the government of this country would be helpful. Is that what governor Bouey is getting in this budget? He is not getting that. Since he made that statement he is getting a budget that has increased by \$3,600 million in its deficit and financial requirements. He is not getting one iota of help from this government in his battle against inflation. That is why inflation rates next year are going to be far worse than the minister outlines in his economic assumptions, which are worded in very, very general terms. So they are doing nothing. The minister has forgotten that principle. Here is the economic strategy we are talking about. All of these principles have been broken already. Then in the budget he says:

within the commitment to expenditure restraint, the need nonetheless to provide for major new expenditures in energy, economic development, industrial adjustment and manpower retraining;

Those are all just words. We know there are new expenditures in energy. We will have to wait and see where the rest is coming from and whence it comes if the government is going to keep reducing its deficit. The minister says that in his strategy one of the principles is:

the need, also, to expand our assistance to the developing world;

His next principle is this:

a resolve to sustain social and economic assistance to those people and those communities most in need;

That is completely violated in this budget. Mr. Speaker, this is supposed to be a Liberal government. This is supposed to be a government of the heart. But all they think of is the ordinary person, if we listen to them when they are out on the campaign trail.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: They are giving us this garbage that oil and gas prices are not going up as much in the next three or four years as they would have gone up under us. I do not care if that is the case. Suppose this year they have only gone up \$3.80 instead of \$4 a barrel. Do you think that the poor people

of this country need assistance less because of the 20-cent difference in the price of a barrel of oil? Supposing over the next four years the government’s permitted increases were slightly less than ours, or 20 per cent less, or 30 per cent less. Do you think that the lower-income people of this country do not need assistance in any event to meet these and other costs? Of course they do. This minister has forecast that energy costs next year are going up 27 per cent. The flinty-hearted Celtic demagogue has forgotten to do anything to help his people in Cape Breton in connection with that 27 per cent increase.

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Food prices are going up 12 per cent next year, according to his economic assumption document. Let us forget energy. Do the ordinary people of this country not need some assistance? Last year the government voted against the assistance we offered. If our budget was now in place, they would be getting assistance this year and next. Lower income Canadians would be getting \$500 million in assistance next year and \$1 billion after that to assist them. Under our property tax and mortgage interest credit policy they would be receiving this very year \$575 million in assistance to meet their housing costs and next year \$1.2 billion. And with all of that we kept the deficit down \$3.6 billion.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: Here is another example of honesty and straightforwardness by this government. We heard the minister of snake oil and energy just half an hour ago answer a question, and instead of answering the question he went on about oil stocks. “Oh,” he said, “the oil stocks are holding up very well”. I do not have his exact words, but all is well. The chickens in the chicken house do not mind that foxy Lalonde is in there baring his teeth at them. “The prices held up very well in the market today”, he said. But here is a note I am handed from the Toronto exchange: “Oil stock index is down 300 points and going down further. The ticker tape is unable to keep up”.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Crosbie: How long, oh Lord, how long? There is no social and economic assistance to the people who are going to need it under this program, none. So much for that.

Then we see this, the last principle, “a resolve to see the competitive forces in our economy strengthened and the weight of government regulation reduced”. They actually have members on the opposite side, the hon. member for Toronto Willowdale or daily willows or something. What is it?

An hon. Member: Pussy willows.

An hon. Member: Willowdale.

Mr. Crosbie: Willowdale. He is chairing a committee on government regulations. Well, it is this very government which brought in the thousands of pages of regulations, and it is this very government, through its energy policy, that is imposing