

The Budget—Mr. Lewis

proud of the part we played in the last session of parliament.

However, in this second session of parliament we could not help but notice that a paralysis has set in in this government. In fact, Sir, the ignoble so-called anti-profiteering bill and the budget pronounced by the Minister of Finance last night are clear proof that the right wing has taken over again in the Liberal Party. There are some people in this country who suggest that the time has come for a Tory government.

● (1640)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: I want to say to the members of this parliament and to the people of Canada that a Tory government has already arrived. I want to add that the people of Canada are so intelligent that they are not likely to change one Tory government for another.

Mr. Reid: Why have an election?

Mr. Lewis: So that they may elect an NDP government.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: These people who have misgoverned this country for over 100 years are so determined that they will do everything possible to prevent Canada from making progress, but the people will see to that. I say, sir—

An hon. Member: With humility?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: —with regret and distress that in my view, and in the view of my colleagues, no progressive person could support this budget and live with himself.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: It does little if anything to combat the cost of living. No wonder the Minister of Finance keeps on repeating that he is certain things will get worse. He knows it, and he is making certain that that will happen. The budget does nothing for pensioners and low income people; it does nothing to solve the housing crisis; it does nothing to introduce real equity in our tax system; it does nothing to regain control of the Canadian economy; it does nothing to remove the regional inequalities from which this country suffers.

Because the budget fails in all these important areas, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That the amendment be amended by changing the period at the end thereof to a comma, and by adding immediately thereafter the following words: "and its failure to propose any measures to assist pensioners and other Canadians on low and fixed incomes, to deal with the housing crisis, or to remove the glaring inequities in the taxation system".

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Goodbye, Pierre.

Mr. Lewis: So that the amendment as amended would read:

[Mr. Lewis.]

This House does not have confidence in the government by reason of its failure to propose effective budgetary measures to contain and reduce inflation and its failure to propose any measures to assist pensioners and other Canadians on low and fixed incomes, to deal with the housing crisis or to remove the glaring inequities in the taxation system.

Some hon. Members: Question.

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THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received which is as follows:

Government House,
Ottawa 7 May, 1974

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Right Honourable Bora Laskin, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 7th day of May, at 5.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
André Garneau
Brigadier General
Administrative Secretary
to the Governor General

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald)—Energy—Electricity—Suggested need for formula to equalize cost in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia; the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose)—Public Service—Request that \$500 salary increase granted employees be given to those now retired; the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski)—Grain—Suggested relief of producers from additional charges because of transportation and contract difficulties.