

Government. Universally in Simcoe North I am asked when the federal election will be called, when they can throw out the Liberals and get on with building Canada. Unfortunately, I would also point out that the payrolls of the larger employers in Simcoe North are not rebounding to pre-Liberal recession levels. That will only come when the energy, forest and other manufacturing industries recover from the Liberal recession and consumer confidence in the Canadian economy is restored.

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The Budget is annually the most important address of the Minister of Finance to the House of Commons. It should review the country's economic position, state what steps the Government intends to take to improve the economy and make improvements in the taxation system. In this Budget the Minister of Finance has reviewed the Canadian economy with his usual honesty, that is to say, he took credit for the positive actions of others and ignored the disastrous policies of the Liberal Government. However, I am quick to say that the Budget has some admirable qualities which I applaud. First, it does not seek radical change in the taxation system. In the past four years the Liberal Party has brought forward the national energy policy in the guise of a budget. That Budget resulted in the rape of the energy industry in Canada for the sake of confiscation and higher energy taxes. As a result, the Canadian energy industry has collapsed, leaving a Liberal legacy of unemployment and bankruptcy in Simcoe North as well as across the country. Also I would like to refer to the disaster Budget of November 1981 introduced by the late departed, but not lamented, Minister of Finance, the Hon. Member for Cape Breton Highlands-Canso (Mr. MacEachen). That was the Liberal Budget which caused a greater recession in Canada than anywhere else in the industrialized world. Coupled with the Liberal high interest rate policy, the insular attitude of the bureaucracy in Ottawa and an arrogance beyond belief in today's democracy, Canada catapulted into the great Liberal recession.

The second admirable quality of the Budget is that it comes in the first quarter of the year. Frankly I am tired of the "here a budget, there a budget, everywhere a disastrous budget" policy which has characterized the Liberal Government. I suggest that we should adopt the policy that the Budget be brought forward by March 31 each year, that it be debated and voted upon through six days of nearly continuous debate, that the Budget legislation be introduced and passed by June 30 every year, and that any Budget measures which are not introduced or passed by June 30 lapse. In other words, if the Government and the bureaucracy cannot get their act together, introduce legislation and pass it forthwith, then tough luck, do not confuse taxpayers any longer.

Also I point out that the Minister of Finance and the Liberal Party appear to have discovered what the rest of us have known all along, that the private sector must be the main creator of jobs. After decades of grinding the private sector, shackling its efforts to create, the bureaucrats and the Liberal Party admit the unthinkable, that is, that the private sector must be the main creator of jobs. We are fortunate to have a

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strong private sector in Canada. It had to be strong or it would not have withstood the assaults of the Liberal Party over the years. I find those things to be commendable about the Budget, and I would like to deal now with specifics.

The glaring omission in the Budget is the lack of a comprehensive plan to reduce unemployment to a level acceptable to Canadians. Under the Liberal Government, unemployment has reached heights which it has not seen since the great Great Depression. Young and old are crying out for jobs, yet the Liberal Government, with all the research and consultants at its disposal, does nothing to tackle realistically high unemployment today. Unemployment in January 1984 was at 11.2 per cent. The predictions indicate that it will remain in double digits for two years or three years to come.

While denying responsibility for the highest unemployment figure since the Great Depression, the Finance Minister is attempting to take credit for bringing down inflation. He does not seem to realize that it is difficult for people to bid up the costs of goods and services, which are after all the cause of inflation, if they do not have jobs. Canadians know who let inflation get out of hand and did nothing about it—the Liberal Party. Canadians know who tackled and beat inflation with precious little help from the federal Government—the Canadian people.

I am amused at the declaration of four principles under which the Government will now bargain. On page 4 of the "Budget in brief", it reads:

The government will bargain according to four principles:

- settlements should contribute to reducing inflation and be fiscally responsible
- compensation should be comparable to the private sector, on the basis of total working conditions and benefits, not just wages
- compensation should not exceed that in the private sector
- settlements should encourage increased productivity and improved performance and recognize relative job responsibilities.

Why has the Liberal Party and the Liberal Government not been bargaining on that basis all along? Why are they stating to Canadians that they have not been doing it until now? Why in fact did they allow things to get out of control?

I will leave the area of inflation with one comment. I note with amusement that Mr. Ian Sinclair, that great independent capitalist, has proven, like many other Liberal Senators, that he can be bought. He trumpeted across the land for a year or more preaching six and five while his companies gave out 22 per cent. He then went to his just reward—a seat in the Senate, an appointment for services rendered. He takes his rightful place with Senators Cools, Barrow and Giguère. It looks good on him!

During the past four years Canadian home owners have been brought under severe pressure by the Liberal high interest rate policy. Homes were lost, families broken up and dreams gone forever as Canadian home owners were forced to